DMM Scans

Share and Die!!!

1

FANTAMIR™

Eun-Jin Seo

FANTAMIR

EUN-JIN SEO

VOL. 1

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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I KEEP HAVING THE SAME DREAM, OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
PROMISE ME...
A GENTLE VOICE WHISPERS SOFTLY IN MY EAR...
I'LL TAKE ALL YOUR BAD MEMORIES AWAY...
...THAT YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FORGET EVERYTHING...
INCLUDING MY NAME...

I WONDER WHO HE WAS.
...IR...
LADY MIR...

LADY MIR, I'M COMING IN.
THERE! THE CLOUDS HAVE COVERED THE MOON.
ITS TIME!
I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG. HERE'S YOUR DINNER...
...!

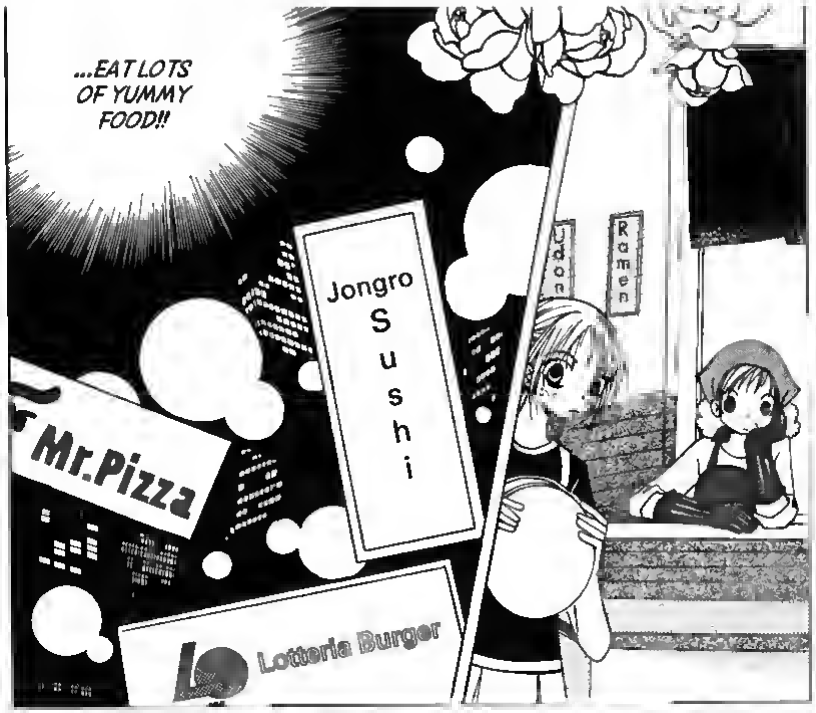
AAAAAHHH!!
OH NO! LADY MIR...
LADY MIR HAS ESCAPED!!

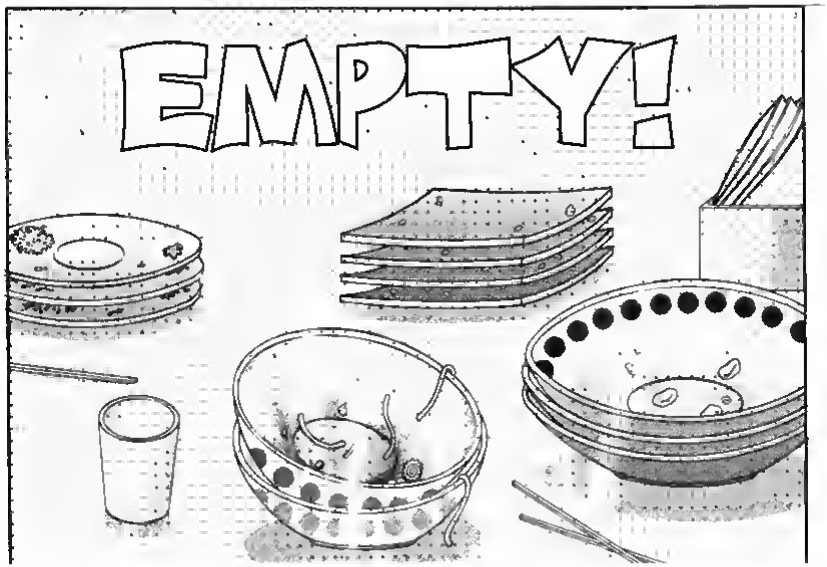
WELL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE IF SHE ACTUALLY SUCCEEDS.
I WAS WONDERING WHY HER PIGGYBANK WAS MISSING A FEW DAYS AGO. SHE'S CLEVER. YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER THAT.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE RANSACKED THE KITCHEN BEFORE SHE LEFT.
AND UH... THE MAGAZINE I WAS HIDING IS MISSING, TOO.
WELL? WHAT NOW?
FIRST OFF, WE OUGHT TO PRETEND LIKE WE'RE SEARCHING FOR HER FOR MOTHER'S SAKE..
NO NEED.
YOU ARE HWARANGS FIRST, AND BROTHERS SECOND. THAT SAID, YOUR FIRST DUTY IS TO ASSIST THE SORCERESS.
SORCERESS!!
LETTING THE NEXT SORCERESS-TO-BE ESCAPE IS A CRIME THAT BEARS A HEAVY PUNISHMENT...
YOU'RE AWARE OF THAT, AREN'T YOU?
WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR ERROR IN JUDGMENT, BUT MIR IS--
IT IS HER DESTINY TO LIVE CONFINED WITHIN THESE WALLS FOREVER, FOR THE SAKE OF HER KINSMEN.
THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR HER TO REALIZE HER DESTINY ON HER OWN.

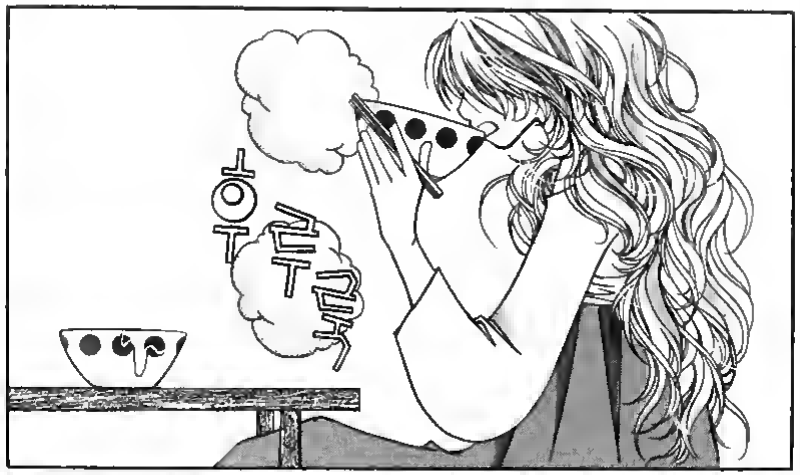
BROTHER BI-RYU...
...ONLY THEN WILL THAT CHILD...
AFTER TWO STRAIGHT DAYS OF WALKING, I FINALLY ARRIVED AT SEOUL.
...BECOME A TRULY GREAT SORCERESS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN A CITY.

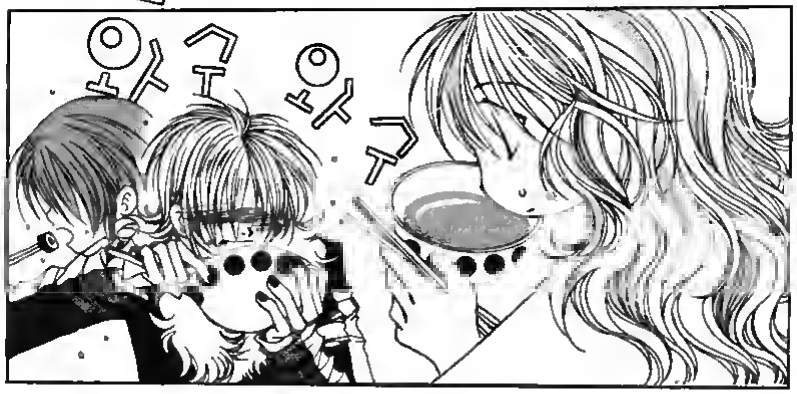
EVERYTHING IS BURSTING WITH LIFE...
IT'S BEYOND MY WILDEST IMAGINATION.
...AND FULL OF SKYSCRAPERS!
JAM-PACKED WITH AUTOMOBILES...
I CAN'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN HOW I FEEL...
STUPID GIRL!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR EYES ARE FOR? WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, EH?!
BUT THE THING THAT APPEALS TO ME THE MOST IS...

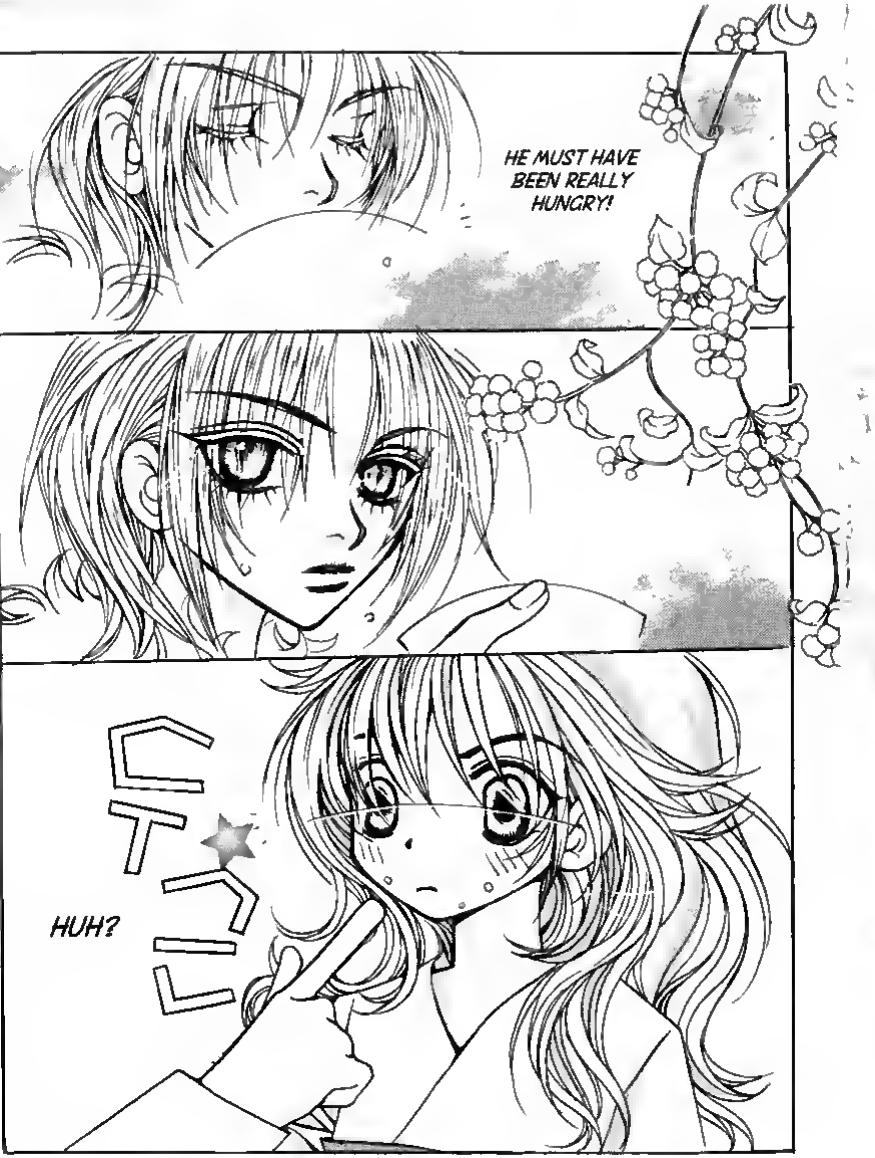
IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE EVER BEEN TREATED LIKE A COMMONER!
HERE, I AM JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL.
No more "Lady Mir" or "Young Mistress"!
Odd but great
HOW RUDE! LETS HEAR YOU SAY THAT AGAIN.
BONK
HUH?
UHM... STU...PID... GIRL...?
COME AGAIN?
OOOW!
I'M S-SORRY!
I REALLY FEEL LIKE I AM IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
ALL RIGHT! THEN THE NEXT THING TO DO IS...


...EAT LOTS OF YUMMY FOOD!!
Jongro Sushi
Ramen
Mr.Pizza
Lotteria Burger


EMPTY!







...
HE'S GORGEOUS!!
TAKE YOUR TIME. I'LL BE OUTSIDE WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
His eyes are soft and grey! He must be Eurasian.
OH, HE'S NOT ONLY CUTE, BUT HE'S NICE, TOO.
ONE UDON, TWO DUMPLINGS AND THE OTHER TABLE HAD ..
...FRIED RICE, SWEET AND SOUR PORK, TWO EXTRA LARGE UDONS, ONE SUSHI ROLL, SPICY NOODLES, SPICY RICE CAKES, ETC., ETC...
THAT'LL BE 53,600 WON.*
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS MEAL?
AREN'T YOU TWO TOGETHER? HE SAID YOU'D TAKE CARE OF THE BILL.
IT MUST BE A MISUNDERSTANDING!

*IN DOLLARS, THAT'S $58.82.

I'VE BEEN HAD...!

ARE YOU GONNA PAY UP OR WHAT?

I SEE WHY THEY SAY THAT IN THE CITY, IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR EVEN A SECOND, YOU'LL GET YOUR NOSE STOLEN RIGHT OFF YOUR FACE.

EVEN IF I BREAK OPEN MY PIGGYBANK, I STILL WON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE FOOD!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A TRADE...

MA'AM, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, BUT I'D BE WILLING TO GIVE YOU SOME VALUABLES INSTEAD.

LIKE WHAT?

*KOREAN MAGAZINE GEARED TOWARDS MALE AUDIENCE

SUNDAY SEOUL!!

I know this must be valuable because my brothers hid it under their beds

AND IT'S BLOODY OLD! LOOK, THE COVER'S YELLOWED WITH AGE!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING, RIGHT? YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT IT?

WHAT IS THIS? IT'S USELESS!! WHERE'S MY MONEY?!

MEN
URP!
WILL THIS COVER IT?
OOF!
HELP!
LET ME GO!

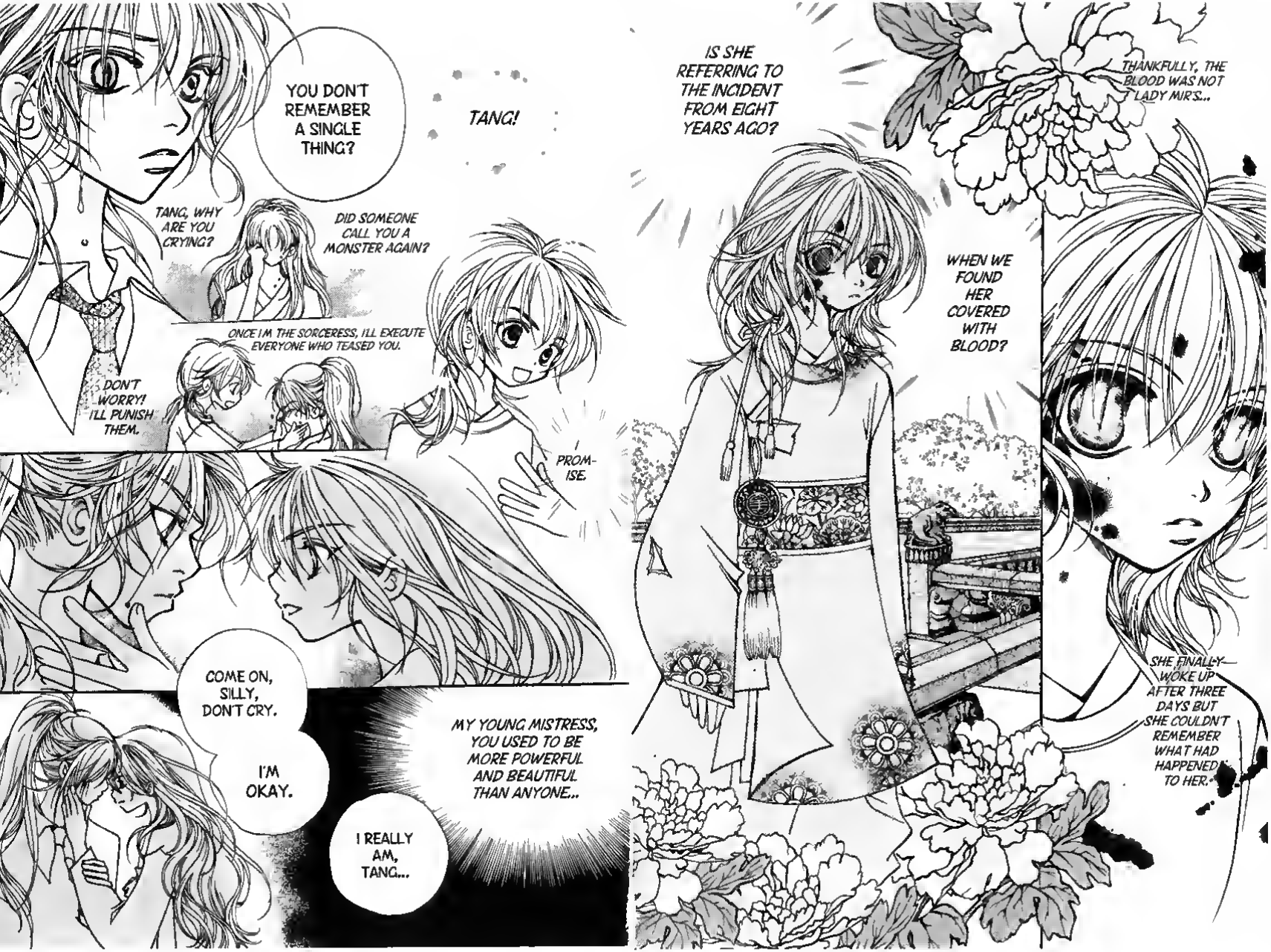
HAE-RANG!
YEAH, RIGHT!
I'VE BEEN CALLING YOUR NAME! WHAT'S GOT YOU SO DISTRACTED?
YOU SEE A HOT CHICK OR SOMETHING?
NOT LIKELY...
HA?
JUST AS I THOUGHT!! YOU REALLY DO LIKE GIRLS!!
For someone as fam as you it should be a crime!!
Bastard
OKAY, OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH TEASING!
WE NEED TO GO ON STAGE.
I SAID NO.

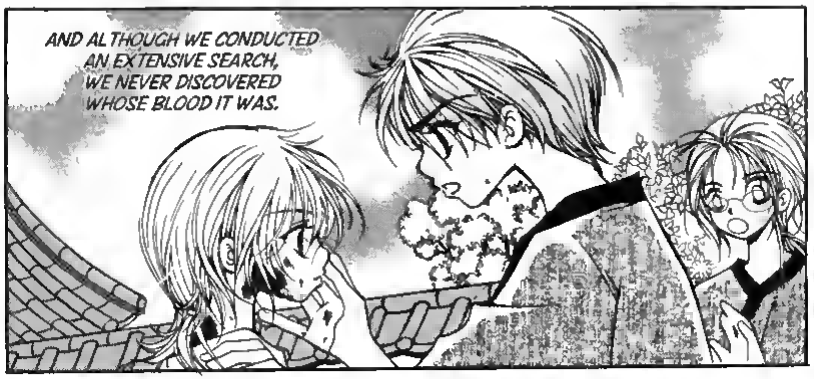
...
PLEASE STOP SAYING NO, AND THINK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SITUATION. YOU'RE REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO BE SAYING THAT.
TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER... IF I HAD NOT INTERVENED, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU NEED TO BE A BIT MORE REALISTIC.
WHAT-EVER, I CAN'T HEAR YOU
DON'T CLOSE YOUR EARS TO ME!
YOU'RE NOT A CAT!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, I'LL USE BRUTE FORCE TO TAKE YOU BACK.
REALLY?
OKAY...
LET'S SEE YOU TRY.
BETTER YET, LET'S SEE YOU TRY TO TOUCH MY SLEEVE!
SUCH INSOLENCE...
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I DID USE TO BE THE FIRST IN LINE TO BECOME THE NEXT GREAT SORCERESS.
SO COME. I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
IF YOU WIN, I'LL RETURN OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Arrgh!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET GO!
HIYAA!
WHAT IF YOU GOT HURT? YOU SHOULDN'T FOOL AROUND LIKE THAT. IT'S DANGEROUS.
TANG, ARE YOU CRAZY?!
IVE...
...GOT YOU...
HUH? WHAT DO YOU--? OH CRAP.
KINDNESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR WEAK SPOT, LADY MIR.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO...
HOWEVER, I REFUSE TO GO BACK.

BESIDES, EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE LOST MY ABILITIES.
I CAN'T BE THE SORCERESS.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IMPLIES...
THAT IS TO SAY...YOU ARE EITHER NO LONGER A VIRGIN, VIOLATING THE CHASTITY LAWS, OR... YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A MALE SERVANT!?
Like moi?
NO?
THEN WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
I'VE LOST MY SPIRITUAL POWERS.
BUT ISN'T IT IMPERATIVE FOR THE SORCERESS TO HAVE SPIRITUAL POWERS? IT'S ONE OF HER GREATEST TOOLS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHE USED TO HAVE THE STRONGEST POWERS OF ANYONE I KNEW!!
WHAT HAPPENED?!

THAT DAY, MY SPIRITUAL POWERS...
...DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH MY MEMORY.
MY BROTHERS AND MOTHER EXPECT ME TO BE THE NEXT SORCERESS.
BUT I CAN'T KEEP LYING TO THEM ANYMORE.
I WENT OVER IT A MILLION TIMES WHILE I WAS LOCKED UP, ALONE IN THE SHRINE.
THE ME WHO USED TO BE SO POWERFUL... WHERE HAS SHE GONE?
SO YOU SEE, I HAD TO LEAVE.
SHE WAS SUFFERING IN SILENCE THIS ENTIRE TIME?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
IS IT TRUE?
TANG!
SHE'S BEEN CARRYING THE WEIGHT OF THIS HEAVY BURDEN ON HER FRAIL SHOULDERS?


YOU DON'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING?
TANG!
TANG, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
DID SOMEONE CALL YOU A MONSTER AGAIN?
ONCE I'M THE SORCERESS, I'LL EXECUTE EVERYONE WHO TEASED YOU.
DON'T WORRY! I'LL PUNISH THEM.
I PROMISE.
COME ON, SILLY, DON'T CRY.
I'M OKAY.
I REALLY AM, TANG...
MY YOUNG MISTRESS, YOU USED TO BE MORE POWERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE...
IS SHE REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT FROM EIGHT YEARS AGO?
WHEN WE FOUND HER COVERED WITH BLOOD?
THANKFULLY, THE BLOOD WAS NOT LADY MIR'S...
SHE FINALLY WOKE UP AFTER THREE DAYS BUT SHE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HER.


AND ALTHOUGH WE CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH, WE NEVER DISCOVERED WHOSE BLOOD IT WAS.

I'M PRETTY STRONG, YOU KNOW. AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT MYSELF!
ARE YOU HERE TO CHECK ON ME?

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED, BACK THEN?
LADY MIR...
ACTUALLY...
...I CAME HERE TO DELIVER THIS TO YOU.

A UNIFORM?
I DON'T GET IT.
IT IS FROM YOUR MOTHER.
IF IT'S POSSIBLE, BRING HER BACK HOME. HOWEVER, IF IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SHE'LL RETURN, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN LEAVE HER BE.
IF SHE WANTS TO GO TO SCHOOL, THEN LET HER DO AS SHE WISHES.
BUT TELL HER THAT AS THE ONCE APPRENTICE TO THE SORCERESS...

"...SHE MUST LEARN TO BE SELF-RELIANT AND REPRESENT HER PROUD HERITAGE..."
SO SHE'S LETTING ME STAY HERE?
PLEASE GIVE HER THIS MESSAGE.
GOOD BYE...
ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY...
I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME AGAIN.
I'VE DECIDED TO GO TO SCHOOL!
OH, BROTHER BI-RYU!

I WONDER WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME.
I'M NO LONGER A CANDIDATE FOR SORCERESS. I AM GIVING UP MY TITLES. I'M SIMPLY AN ORDINARY GIRL NOW.
TANG AND I HAVE THROWN AWAY OUR PAST AND WILL BEGIN A NEW LIFE.
THOUGH, EVERYTHING IS STILL STRANGE AND UNFAMILIAR RIGHT NOW...
Aca! Look at your skirt!
I wish I had a desk
It's too short!
THE THINGS THAT I THOUGHT WERE IMPORTANT, AND SPENT ALL MY ENERGY LEARNING, DON'T APPLY TO MY NEW LIFE HERE.
...WE WILL LIVE HERE...

WHAT A SHAME.
I WAS HOPING TO SEE MIR IN HER UNIFORM.
I like girls in short skirts! The shorter the better

DO YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
Me too
I MEAN, IF SHE'S GOING TO SHINDANSOO ACADEMY, THEN--

SHH. YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO QUESTION THE SORCERESS DECISIONS.
AND BESIDES, WE NEED TO KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THIRD BROTHER.
OH, RIGHT.

WHEN IT COMES TO MIR, THIRD BROTHER IS VERY PROTECTIVE.
IF HE HEARD ABOUT THIS, HE'D DO SOMETHING RASH.

BUT EVEN IF HE DID KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

THE BIRD HAS ALREADY LEFT THE BIRDCAGE...
WAHOO!
...IT IS FREE TO SPREAD ITS WINGS--

PART 1: SHINDANSOO

SHINDANSOO
ACADEMY
MY TYPE?

I DON'T REALLY HAVE ONE.
COME ON! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MODEST, UPPERCLASSMAN BE-HYUNG-RANG.
PLEASE?! THIS IS A SPECIAL INTERVIEW FOR THE SCHOOL. SO YOU HAFTA ANSWER THE QUESTION.
UM... THE TYPE OF GIRL I LIKE...
...IS A GIRL WHO'S ABLE TO BEAR ALL MY CHILDREN!
아 아
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE...
HE REALLY IS A WEIRDO!!
I didn't expect that!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU WERE A BIT TOO HONEST, MR. STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT?
ANY GIRL WHO HEARS THAT...
...IS CERTAIN TO STEER CLEAR OF YOU.

BA-RI!

WHERE DO I RANK ON CHILD-REARING?
STOP JOKING AROUND AND COME DOWN FROM THERE. YOU'RE GONNA FALL AND HURT YOURSELF.
I'M NOT JOKING.

I'M GONNA COUNT TO THREE AND JUMP. YOU BETTER CATCH ME.
ONE...
TWO—
YAKATA!
NO! WAIT A MINUTE!
THREE —!!

I'M SUCH A SUCKER!
AGAIN?!

YOU'RE SO OLD FASHIONED AND CHIVALROUS.
But that's why I love you
WHY YOU--
YOU DO KNOW THAT YOU BECOME LESS AND LESS CHARMING, THE MORE YOU SAY "NO," RIGHT?
SO, HOW ABOUT YOU STOP ALL THIS NONSENSE AND JUST GO OUT WITH ME ALREADY?
THAT AGAIN? I THOUGHT WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THIS.
You don't know when to quit
I ONLY THINK OF YOU AS A FRIEND.
I DON'T GET IT! HOW CAN YOU REFUSE ME? I'M PERFECT! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU. EVERY OTHER BOY IN SCHOOL WOULD DIE TO BE WITH ME!!
You look like "The shimbar"
PUT YOUR LEG DOWN. PEOPLE CAN SEE UP YOUR SKIRT.
I BETTER GET GOING.
WE HAVE A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT ARRIVING TODAY.
Bo Ri! Where are you?
I WILL GET AN ANSWER FROM YOU!!
YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK, BUT IT WON'T BE THIS EASY NEXT TIME!

A TOTALLY FOREIGN WORLD--!
SHINDANSOO ACADEMY.
OH WELL! WHAT WON'T KILL ME WILL ONLY MAKE ME STRONGER!
PRINCI
A TRANS-FER STUDENT?
WE'RE BOTH JUNIORS! NICE TO MEET YOU!!
GUESS I WORRIED FOR NOTHING...
MY NAME IS YU-RI. I WRITE FOR THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.
YOU HAVEN'T HAD A TOUR OF THE SCHOOL YET, HAVE YOU?
COME ON! I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.

AH--
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE WALKED HAND-IN-HAND WITH A GIRL MY OWN AGE.
THIS IS THE LIBRARY...
THIS IS THE OUTDOOR POOL. COOL, HUH?
I'M SO LUCKY! ♡
IF MAKING FRIENDS IS THIS EASY, I SHOULD HAVE 100 FRIENDS IN NO TIME!!
HA HA! OUR ACADEMY'S ADMISSIONS POLICY'S VERY RESTRICTED SO WE RARELY HAVE ANY TRANSFER STUDENTS.
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE REALLY INFLUENTIAL.
LET ME GUESS, I BET YOU WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO THE HWARANGS SO YOU BEGGED YOUR DAD TO GET YOU IN HERE, AM I RIGHT?
HWARANG? WHAT'S THAT?
EHHHK! YOU DON'T KNOW THE HWARANG?

YOU'RE YU-RI FROM THE PAPER, RIGHT?
THIS HALLWAY IS A DESIGNATED QUIET ZONE. YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER.
UPPER-CLASSMAN!
I'M SORRY.
I WAS SHOWING THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT AROUND AND I GOT SO WORKED UP I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LOUD I WAS BEING.
Your bow is crooked too
BE MORE MINDFUL OF THE RULES IN THE FUTURE.
NOW THEN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

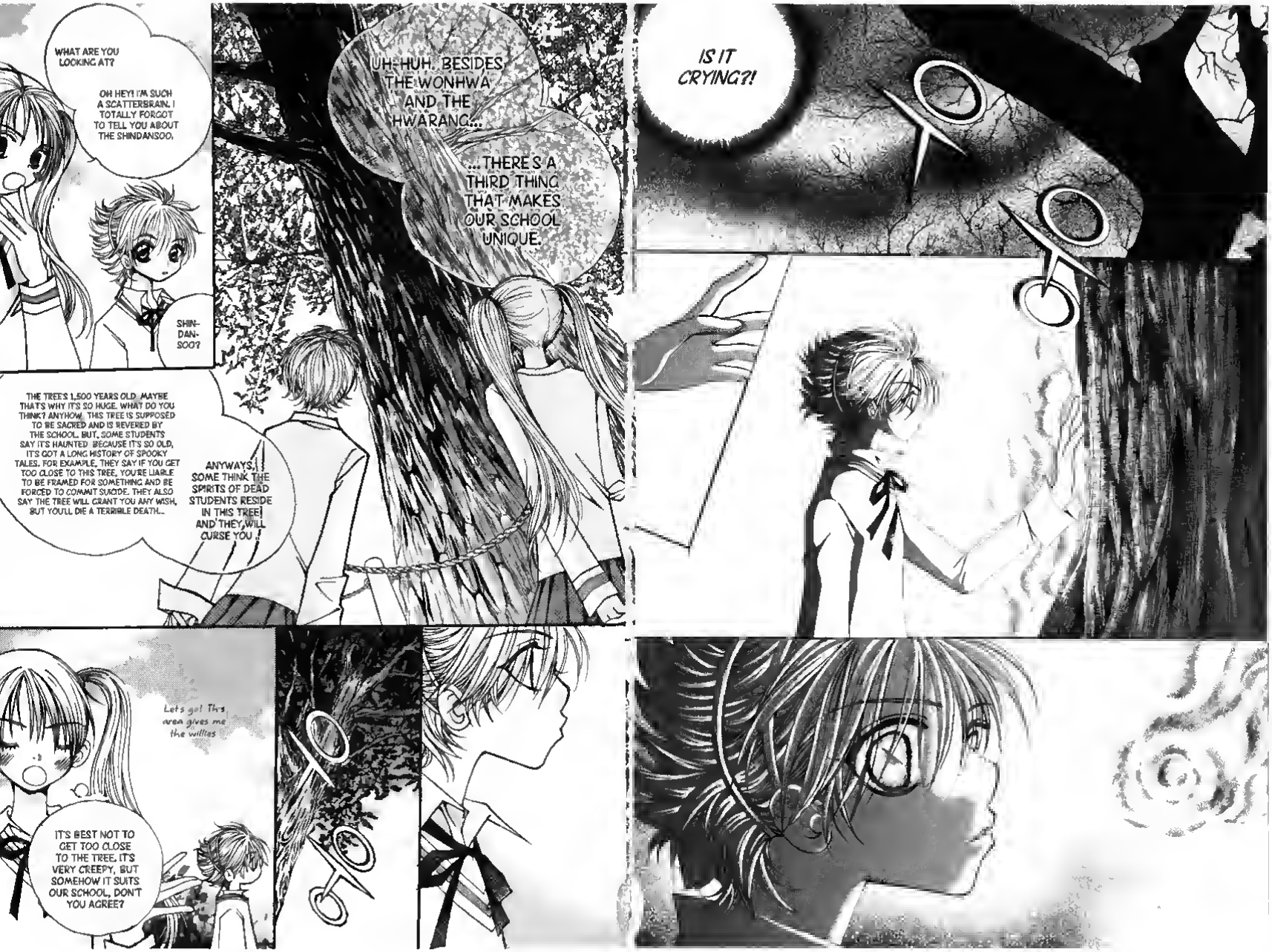
I ACTUALLY SPOKE TO ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF WONHWA. IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
WONHWA? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET INTO THIS SCHOOL?
I'LL EXPLAIN, BUT LISTEN CAREFULLY. ONLY GIRLS WHO HAVE INTELLIGENCE, BEAUTY AND EXCELLENT FAMILY LINEAGE ARE ADMITTED INTO THE WONHWA SORORITY. THE MALE COUNTERPART OF IT IS THE HWARANG FRATERNITY.
THE WONHWAS HAVE FOUR MEMBERS, TOTAL. OF THESE FOUR, THE BEST ALL AROUND, REGARDLESS OF SENIORITY, IS GIVEN COMPLETE POWER. ALL MUST OBEY HER.
AND THAT GREAT WONHWA IS... LADY BA-RI.

FANTAMIR

LOOK! IT'S BA-RI!!
THEY'RE ACTING AS IF THEY'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF ROYALTY.
SHE'S AMAZING, ISN'T SHE?
THEY ARE ALL POPULAR IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, BUT NO ONE COMPARES TO BA-RI IN TERMS OF BEAUTY AND POPULARITY REGARDLESS OF GENDER! SHE'S THE STAR OF THE SCHOOL.

AT THIS SCHOOL, THE WONHWA REIGNS SUPREME.
THEY ALSO RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY CAN REQUEST SPECIAL UNIFORM ALTERATIONS AND GROW THEIR HAIR AS LONG AS THEY WANT. THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES AT SCHOOL WHO CAN HAVE EXTREMELY LONG HAIR.
HOO HOO...! AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL! ONCE YOU BECOME A WONHWA, YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY ALLOWED TO DATE THE HWARANG, THE ELITE MEN OF OUR SCHOOL!!
IT'S THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNION OF THE ELITES... ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT?
AND THAT'S A GOOD THING?
OF COURSE IT IS!! IT'S EVERY GIRLS' DREAM TO BE ABLE TO DATE ONE OF THE HWARANGS!!
IT'D BE GREAT IF UPPERCLASSMAN BA-RI WOULD FINALLY CHOOSE A HWARANG THIS YEAR... SINCE BECOMING A WONHWA, SHE HASN'T DATED A SINGLE HWARANG.
I hope she picks me this time!
Not Listening

MIR.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU. WHY'D YOU RUN OFF LIKE THAT?
SD


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OH HEY! I'M SUCH A SCATTERBRAIN. I TOTALLY FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE SHINDANSOO.
SHIN-DAN-SOO?
UH-HUH. BESIDES THE WONHWA AND THE HWARANG...
...THERE'S A THIRD THING THAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL UNIQUE.
THE TREE'S 1,500 YEARS OLD. MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT'S SO HUGE. WHAT DO YOU THINK? ANYHOW, THIS TREE IS SUPPOSED TO BE SACRED AND IS REVERED BY THE SCHOOL. BUT, SOME STUDENTS SAY IT'S HAUNTED. BECAUSE IT'S SO OLD, IT'S GOT A LONG HISTORY OF SPOOKY TALES. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SAY IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO THIS TREE, YOU'RE LIABLE TO BE FRAMED FOR SOMETHING AND BE FORCED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. THEY ALSO SAY THE TREE WILL GRANT YOU ANY WISH, BUT YOU'LL DIE A TERRIBLE DEATH...
ANYWAYS, I SOME THINK THE SPIRITS OF DEAD STUDENTS RESIDE IN THIS TREE! AND THEY WILL CURSE YOU!
IS IT CRYING?!
Let's go! This area gives me the willies
IT'S BEST NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THE TREE. IT'S VERY CREEPY, BUT SOMEHOW IT SUITS OUR SCHOOL, DON'T YOU AGREE?

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
MIR...
MIR!!

WHAT WAS THAT?
THE TREE REALLY IS HAUNTED!
I HEARD IT WITH MY OWN EARS. IT CALLED OUT HER NAME! THE TREE ACTUALLY CALLED OUT HER NAME--
MIR!
WHAT...?
THAT VOICE SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL!
YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY--- UNDERSTAND?
HUH?
OKAY...
...IR
MIR...
WHO'S THERE?

MIR, YOU CAME.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THIS ENTIRE TIME...
UM, I'M SORRY, BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
HAVE WE...MET BEFORE?
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME BACK.
YOU MEAN...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
I'M SORRY...
IT'S MY FAULT THAT I DON'T REMEMBER. DON'T CRY.
THEN... YOU DON'T REMEMBER THAT EITHER?

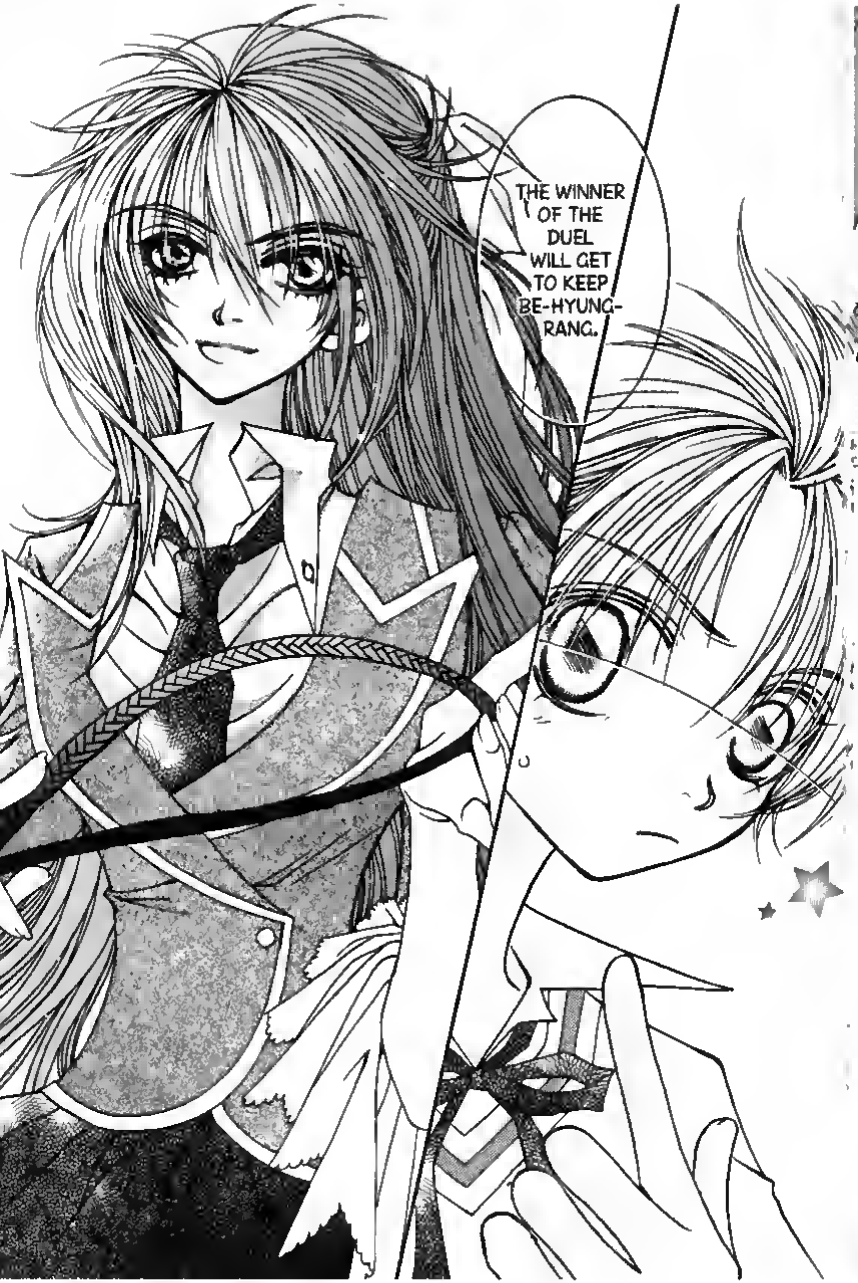
...
THE THING THAT YOU DID...
AHH...
WAIT...
YOU FINALLY FINALLY CAME TO. GREAT.
EH?!

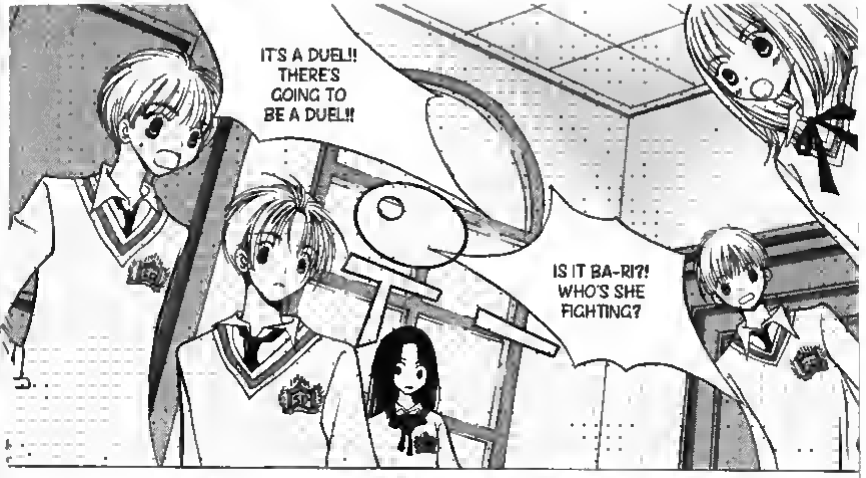
IS THIS HOW YOU RESPOND TO MY QUESTION?
BE-HYUNG-RANG?
BA-RI?
Without Hyung-rang, I can't see anymore.
HM! YOU DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR.

THIS IS A MISUNDER-STANDING.
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
REALLY? A MISUNDER-STANDING...?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES! JUST LET HER GO.
LET GO
LET GO

IS THIS THE WAY THIS SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS?
Hm..
YOU'RE SPUNKY.
OHO HO HO! I LIKE YOU!
짝
짝

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MIR.
MIR... AS IN "DRAGON"?
THAT'S QUITE A NICE NAME.
A GLOVE?
WHAT FOR?
TO CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.


THE WINNER OF THE DUEL WILL GET TO KEEP BE-HYUNG-RANG.


IT'S A DUEL!! THERE'S GOING TO BE A DUEL!!
IS IT BA-RI?! WHO'S SHE FIGHTING?

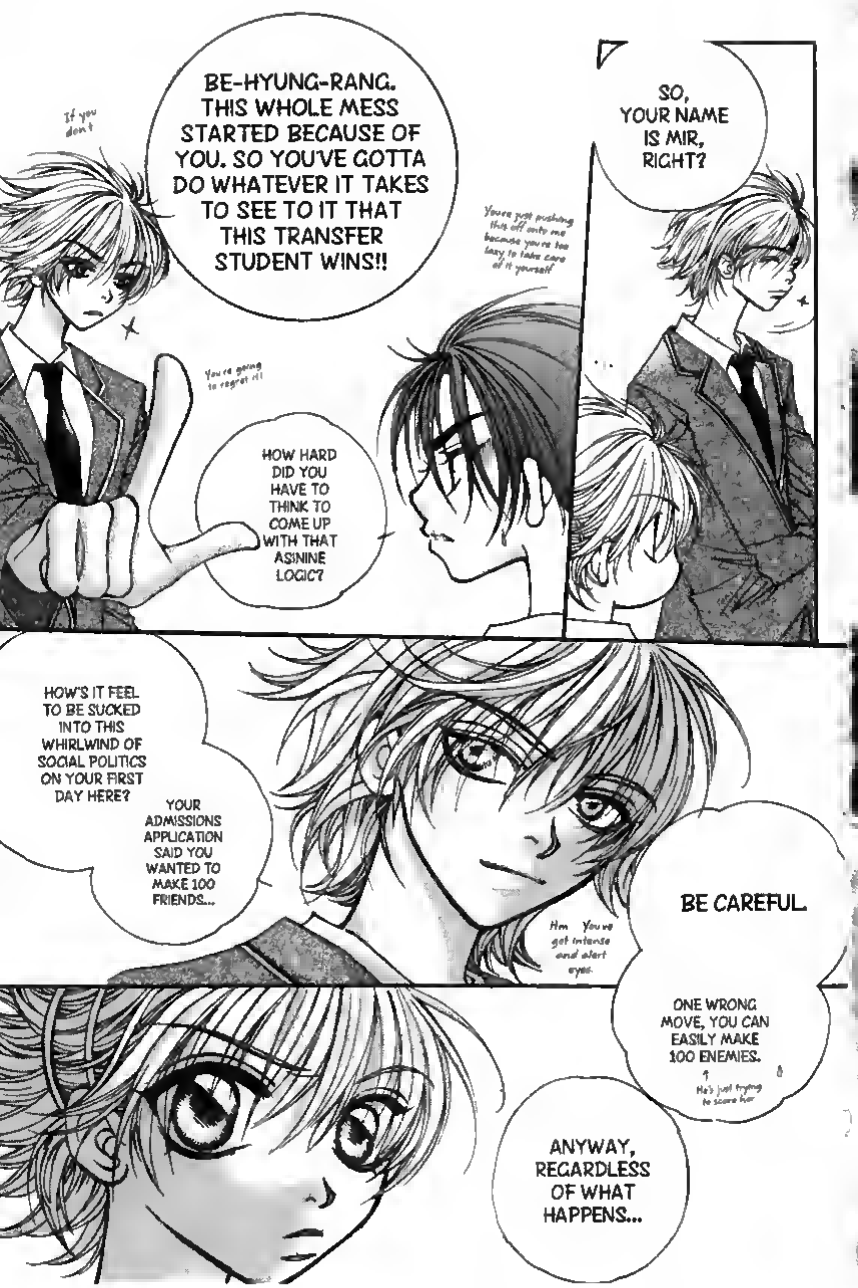
WELL? WHAT DO YOU SAY?

STOP! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THIS GIRL. IT'S ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING!
WHO'S BE-HYUNG-RANG?

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO BUTT IN!
찰싹
찰싹

THERE'S GOING TO BE A DUEL, HUH? SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
ALL RIGHT THEN. MY MONEY'S ON THE NEW GIRL.
IT'S SA-DA-HAHM AND THE OTHER HWARANGS!!
THE WONHWAS AND THE HWARANGS ARE ACTUALLY TALKING TO EACH OTHER?!
WE'RE HERE TO BE EYE WITNESSES.
SA-DA-HAHM (18). LEADER OF THE HWARANGS. AFTER BA-RI, HE IS NUMBER TWO IN POWER.

WHY ARE YOU HWARANGS GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS? I THOUGHT WE ESTABLISHED THAT WE'RE ENEMIES! JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL?
WHO, ME? I WOULDN'T DREAM OF PULLING ONE OVER ON YOU.
THAT IS, AS LONG AS YOU AGREE TO THIS ONE CONDITION.
THE CONDITION IS THAT A SWIMMING EVENT BE INCLUDED IN THIS DUEL.
YOU JUST WANT TO SEE US IN A BATHING SUIT!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO FALL FOR YOUR STUPID TRICKS.
IF YOU DON'T DO IT, EVERYONE WILL JUST ASSUME THAT YOU'RE AFRAID YOU WON'T LOOK AS GOOD AS THE NEW GIRL.
...FINE!
WE AGREE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ONE CONDITION, TOO.
HE MUST BE TRYING TO GET REVENGE FOR WHEN I REFUSED TO DATE HIM.
HOW BASE!
YOU WILL TURN OVER YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM TO US!
HM... I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
HOW ABOUT WHOEVER LOSES HAS TO STRIP NAKED?
NO DEAL!
HEY! DON'T WE HAVE A SAY IN THIS?!
FINE! YOU'RE NO FUN.
NOW THEN, WHO'S GONNA BE IN CHARGE OF THE NEW GIRL?


BE-HYUNG-RANG. THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED BECAUSE OF YOU. SO YOU'VE GOTTA DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SEE TO IT THAT THIS TRANSFER STUDENT WINS!!
If you don't
You're going to regret it!
HOW HARD DID YOU HAVE TO THINK TO COME UP WITH THAT ASININE LOGIC?
You're just pushing this off onto me because you're too lazy to take care of it yourself
SO, YOUR NAME IS MIR, RIGHT?
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE SUCKED INTO THIS WHIRLWIND OF SOCIAL POLITICS ON YOUR FIRST DAY HERE?
YOUR ADMISSIONS APPLICATION SAID YOU WANTED TO MAKE 100 FRIENDS...
Hm. You've got intense and alert eyes.
BE CAREFUL.
ONE WRONG MOVE, YOU CAN EASILY MAKE 100 ENEMIES.
He's just trying to scare her.
ANYWAY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS...

...I WELCOME YOU TO THE SHINDANSOO ACADEMY.

NORMALLY, WE TRAIN ALL THE NEW STUDENTS HOW TO USE A SWORD, HOWEVER...
YE-HA (18), HEAD OF THE GIRLS KUMDO CLUB.
...AS YOU CAN SEE...
...WE'RE NOT REALLY IN ANY SHAPE TO DO THAT RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M REFERRING TO THE DUEL. YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE SOMETHING'S GOING ON BETWEEN THAT NEW GIRL AND BE-HYUNG-RANG...
YOU JUST WANT AN EXCUSE TO DUEL.
HOW VERY ASTUTE...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
JUST THINKING ABOUT THE DUEL SENDS CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE...
...I'VE FELT THIS WAY.
THAT FIRE IN HER EYES.
I'M POSITIVE THERE'S MORE TO HER THAN IT APPEARS.

JUST WHO IS SHE?
BA-RI?
MIR...

...

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SMILED...
THE HWARANG'S WARNING BECAME A REALITY. FROM THAT DAY ON, I WAS IGNORED BY ALL MY SCHOOLMATES.
"IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE GOING TO THIS SCHOOL..."
"...IT'D BE BEST IF YOU JUST ACCEPT BA-RI'S DUEL. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU WIN OR LOSE."

THIS IS WORSE THAN I FEARED...
I'm getting chills all of a sudden.
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CAN TEACH HER!

ARE THEY GONE?
YES, BUT WAS ALL THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
I MEAN, SHE'S ONLY A TRANSFER STUDENT... A NOBODY.
AN UNKNOWN TRANSFER STUDENT SUDDENLY FIGHTING FOR THE HWARANG?
DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT THIS NOBODY COULD TARNISH BA-RI'S REPUTATION?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

DO NOT FORGET. OUR GROUP'S PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT THE WONHWAS AND BA-RI.
ANYONE WHO DARES THREATEN OUR NOBLE BA-RI WILL PAY THE PRICE!
끌꺽

YOU WANT ME TO TEACH HER HOW TO FENCE? WHY ME?
THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE, I NEED YOUR HELP.
I THINK I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE GOSSIPING ABOUT IT.
BUT SINCE HER OPPONENT IS BA-RI, I WAS EXPECTING A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGER. NOT A YOUNG GREENHORN...
SUNG (1B), EX-LEADER OF THE KUMDO CLUB.
SO YOU'LL DO IT?
NO.
THE SWORD'S PURPOSE IS TO HELP THE WIELDER BRING PEACE TO THIS HECTIC WORLD AND THEIR OWN CHAOTIC MIND.
IT IS NOT FOR RESOLVING PETTY BETS.

SWIMSUIT.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT THAT WONHWA HAS DONE TO YOU?
IT WASN'T ENOUGH THAT SHE LEFT A PERMANENT SCAR ON YOUR FACE, BUT SHE ALSO FORCED YOU TO DISBAND YOUR BELOVED KUMDO CLUB.*
*WHISPERINGS OF THE DEVIL
WE'LL GET OUR REVENGE.
REVENGE? HOW?
PICTURE IF YOU WILL FOR A MINUTE... THE IDOL OF THE STUDENT BODY, BA-RI, BEING HUMILIATED IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL...
...THE CRUCIFICATION OF THEIR "VIRGIN MARY," SO TO SPEAK.
MEOW.
I'M PICTURING IT.
상상
That guy is...
IS THE NEXT LESSON...
...HORSEBACK RIDING?
...
Oh, dear
STAND UP STRAIGHT AND SUCK IN YOUR STOMACH!
FIRED UP!

MAGNIFICENT, HUH?
HIS PHYSIQUE, LINEAGE, AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING IS THE BEST.
THAT STALLION IS KNOWN FOR ITS BAD TEMPER, AND WILL ONLY LET BA-RI RIDE HIM. WHY ARE WE USING THAT ONE?
THE WONHWA'S PRESSURED THE EQUESTRIAN CLUB AND NOW, THEY WON'T LET US BORROW ANY OF THEIR HORSES.
TAKE ME FOR EXAMPLE...
ITS AMAZING—!
Oh, baby!
MIR...?
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?
SHE ALREADY HAS HIM UNDER CONTROL.
Nothing to it
I GUESS I SPOKE TOO SOON.
HELP ME!!!

I'M BACK!
HUH?!
WELCOME BACK! HOW WAS SCHOOL?
LADY MIR?
I'VE SEEN THAT CONTEMPTUOUS POSTURE BEFORE...
Right here.
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO QUIT BECAUSE OF THIS, YOU'RE HIGHLY MISTAKEN!
I WILL RIDE YOU!! I PROMISE!
I SOUNDED SO TOUGH AND DETERMINED, BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HOLD THE REINS PROPERLY.
IF I'M GOING TO BE LIKE THIS, THEN WHY DID I EVEN BOTHER COMING TO THIS SCHOOL?
In the middle of practice

WELL, AT LEAST...
...I HAVE YU-RI.
I miss Yu-Ri.
GET HIM!
퍼
SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT...
Hurry away!
A FIGHT?
Has really giving it to them...
OVER HERE!
OW!!

GOTCHA!
!!!!
WAIT A MINUTE.
I KNOW THIS GUY.
THOSE STRANGE SILVER EYES...

HEY! YOU'RE THAT SWINDLER!
HAHA! I WAS WONDERING WHO YOU WERE.
WE'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT. BE QUIET!
MMMF!
YOU'RE BECOMING A PAIN.
OR
YOU'RE DEAD--

A BELATED GREETING!
WHAT WAS THAT?
SOMETHING NICE.
ALSO KNOWN AS A KISS.
KI-
YOU'RE SO DEAD!
HEY NOW...

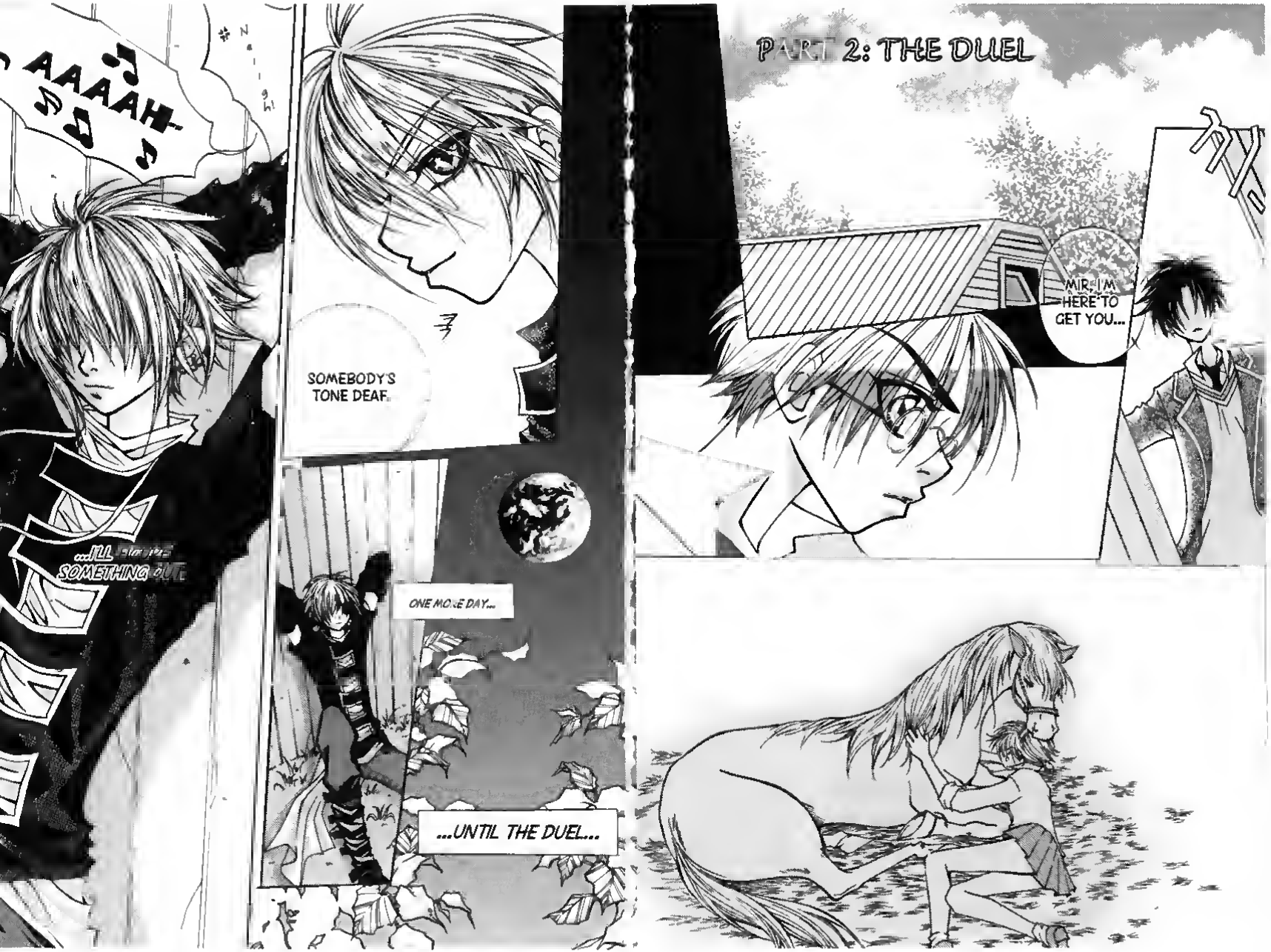
STOP RIGHT THERE!
YOU JERK!
HA HA
MY NAME IS HAE-RANG!
DON'T FORGET MY NAME!
HE'S SNEAKY LIKE A RAT.
I WONDER WHERE HE'S HIDING.
THERE!
FOUND YOU!
SHINDANSOO TIMES
I AM AN UNDERWEAR THIEF
SHOCKING!!
A CANDID SHOT OF THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT JOYFULLY CLUTCHING MEN'S UNDERWEAR
THE SHOCKING LOCKER ROOM INCIDENT! WHAT IS THIS STUDENT'S TRUE IDENTITY!
A TRUE EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE HWARANGS!! WILL HER EVIL NATURE BE REVEALED DURING THE DUEL WITH THE WONHWA?
WHAT IS THIS?
Everything will be fine!

I can hear you, stupid
EVERYDAY IT'S THE SAME.
That's her
She's going to
And he is
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT JERK!!
YU-RI...?
I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING, I SWEAR. I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU! WE'VE ALL BEEN FORBIDDEN FROM HAVING ANY CONTACT WITH YOU.
!
I THOUGHT WE COULD BE FRIENDS. BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.
YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD, MR. THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY IS IGNORING YOU, BUT IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO FAZE YOU.
IT WOULD DRIVE ANY NORMAL PERSON CRAZY.
I'M USED TO BEING ALONE, THAT'S ALL.

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING! WHEN YOU FAINTED, SHINDANSOO TREE CALLED OUT YOUR NAME!
BE-HYUNG-RANG ASKED ME TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT WHAT I HEARD, SO I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YET...
TELL ME. WHO ARE YOU?
MIR?
WAIT!
THUD
Hey...!
IT'S YOU AGAIN!
SAFE GUARDING HIS GLASSES
TELL ME, BE-HYUNG-RANG!
YU-RI SAID THAT I WAS WEIRD.
NOW SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

YOU ARE A STRANGE ONE.
YOU CAN'T STAND TO LOSE ONE FRIEND, BUT YOU'RE FINE MAKING ENEMIES WITH THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE...
YOU ALSO OBSESS OVER A FRIEND...
...
HONK!
BAMM!
YU-RI IS MY FRIEND AND I'M GONNA WIN HER BACK!
JUST YOU WAIT!! I'M GONNA WIN ALL OF YOU OVER.
I WON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN.
I HAVE TO FIT IN HERE...
IF I DON'T, I HAVE NO WHERE ELSE TO GO.
BE-HYUNG-RANG.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

TA-DA!! IT'S ME AGAIN.
I JUST NEED TO COME AND GET YOU TOMORROW MORNING, RIGHT?
UH-HUH, THANKS.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPIER TO SEE ME.
I'VE COME TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
SO, LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
PAT
PAT
I'M NOT GONNA CRY JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND ME. WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO ME?
OH! SHALL I SING YOU A SONG?
WHAT I NEED TO DO IS TRY MY BEST, AND IF THAT STILL DOESN'T WORK...
What kind of song do you like?
Please don't sing!


AAAAH-
SOMEBODY'S TONE DEAF.
ONE MORE DAY...
...UNTIL THE DUEL...
PART 2: THE DUEL
MIR, I'M HERE TO GET YOU...

MIR--
YOU'RE HERE ALREADY?
YOU TWO LOOK PRETTY CHUMMY...
YEP!
I SANG AND WE PLAYED TOGETHER ALL NIGHT.
You sang?
Who's Nang-Wol?
I'LL BE SEEING YOU AT THE EQUESTRIAN FIELD, NANG-WOL!
Gave the horse a random name

WAIT A MINUTE. LET ME FOCUS FOR A MOMENT.
ALL RIGHT! POWER-UP, MIR!!
LET'S GO!!
NOT YET. THERE'S ONE MORE IMPORTANT THING WE NEED TO DO.
IMPORTANT THING? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT... BUT YOU MIGHT CALL IT ONE OF SHINDANSOO ACADEMY'S DEEP ROOTED TRADITIONS...
...WHICH I DON'T LIKE...

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES, OR IN OTHER WORDS... YOUR ATTIRE.
EH?
ATTENTION, EVERYONE.
WOW!
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE DUEL BETWEEN THE WONHWA AND THE TRANSFER STUDENT!!

THE JUDGES FOR THIS DUEL ARE...
LOOK! THE HWARANGS, THE WONHWAS AND EVEN THE CHINWE OFFICERS! ALL THE IDOLS OF THE SHINDANSOO ACADEMY ARE GATHERING IN ONE PLACE!!
THIS IS WHAT I LIVE FOR!
Me too!!
I'm so happy!
SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT...
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THE MALE STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRUDGES AGAINST BA-RI HAVE ALL COME OUT IN FORCE!
...THE HWARANGS WHO ARE NOW ENTERING THE FIELD.

JUST IGNORE THEM.
NO MATTER HOW THEY SCHEME AND PLOT, THEY CAN'T TOUCH US WITH A SIX FOOT POLE.
I'M SURE BA-RI HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.
BUT THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS BA-RI.
THAT TRANSFER STUDENT...
MAYBE I'M MAKING TOO MUCH OF THINGS. BUT THE SUDDEN DECISION TO HOLD A DUEL...
...IT SEEMS RATHER RASH, DOESN'T IT?
IT'S STARTING.
Maybe you're overreacting
You think so?

LET GO OF ME!
COMPARED TO BA-RI, MIR IS...
YOU EXPECT ME TO GO OUT LOOKING LIKE THIS?!
MIR?!
SHE LOOKS LIKE A BOY!!
RATHER THAN EMPHASIZING THEIR DIFFERENCE IN BEAUTY BY GIVING HER THE SAME WARDROBE, I PICKED AN OUTFIT THAT WOULD HIGHLIGHT HER BEST FEATURES.
STYLIST
THATS HER DUELING ATTIRE?
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!!
BEAUTY RUNS THROUGH THE VEINS OF THE WONHWAS.

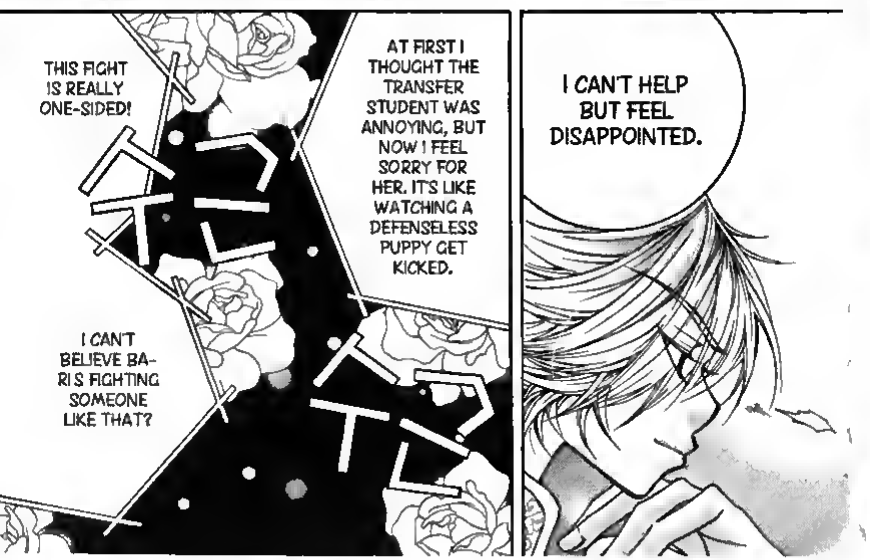
WHY'S THAT DUDE WEARING A PIECE THAT REVEALS HIS STOMACH?
SO I LOOK LIKE A BOY. SO SORRY, DAMN.
A DUEL IS A FIGHT FOR SOMETHING.
SO IF I WIN, I SHOULD WIN A PRIZE, RIGHT?
...!
OF COURSE.
WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON
...
YOU MUST NOT MAKE THE WOMAN AS YOUR ENEMY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MIA?
Everyone, please be quiet!
THEN, AS OF THIS MOMENT—
WAIT A MINUTE!
HOWEVER, IF YOU LOSE THE DUEL, YOU CAN NO LONGER ATTEND.
THIS IS THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEMS!
I WILL... REVEAL IT AFTER I WIN!!

HOW COCKY!! SHE ACTUALLY EXPECTS BA-RI TO LOSE?
Go, Ba-Ri
FIGHT ON BA-Ri!
From the Ba-Ri Fan Club
INTERESTING...
YOU SUCK!
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!
BA-RI'S ONLY FLAW IS THAT SHE HATES TO LOSE.
ONCE SHE'S DETERMINED TO WIN, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING CAN STOP HER!!
YOU'RE FAIRLY CONFIDENT ABOUT YOURSELF.
LET'S PUT YOUR CONFI-DENCE TO THE TEST.
SEE IF YOU CAN DODGE MY SWORD!
HANG ON! WAIT!
CLANG
I'M NOT READY YET...!
...!!

I MISSED...
THIS ISN'T A GAME.
SHE'S FIGHTING FOR REAL!
GASP!
OH DEAR.
WHOA...
BE-HYUNG-RANG, YOU LIAR!!
Glaring at Be Hyung Rang
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT I'D BE FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE!
HERE I COME!

I HATE FIGHT-ING!!

HOW ODD!


THIS FIGHT IS REALLY ONE-SIDED!
AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE TRANSFER STUDENT WAS ANNOYING, BUT NOW I FEEL SORRY FOR HER. IT'S LIKE WATCHING A DEFENSELESS PUPPY GET KICKED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE BA-RI IS FIGHTING SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL DISAPPOINTED.

YOU LOSE, BA-RI.

THIS FIGHT IS MAKING US LOOK BAD.

THIS FIGHT IS MORE EVENLY MATCHED THAN YOU THINK.
LOOK CLOSELY.
HUH?

10 MINUTES HAVE PASSED...
SHE'S ACTUALLY BLOCKING BA-RI'S ATTACKS.
A layman wouldn't be able to do that
HER REACTIONS ARE A BIT SLOW, BUT SHE'S PICKING UP HER PACE.
AND LOOK! THEY'RE TALKING.

BA-RI'S PROVOKING HER OPPONENT.
NOW'S THE TIME!!
I WONDER WHY?

FANTAMIR

YOU WIN...
MIR.
꺄
오~~

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT BEAT A WONHWA. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
WILL BA-RI HAVE TO STEP DOWN? OR WILL THE NEW GIRL BECOME A WONHWA?
HER? A WONHWA CANDIDATE?
This is how she looks like to the students

AT THIS CURRENT STATE, WE CANNOT HAVE A FAIR DUEL.
THE DUEL CANNOT GO ON.
WE WILL POSTPONE THE REST OF THE DUEL UNTIL BA-RI'S ARM IS RECOVERED!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! THOSE AREN'T THE RULES OF DUELING!
HURRY UP AND LET THEM FINISH IT...
SNAP

!
MAKE YOUR OFFICERS STAND DOWN!
NOISY BASTARD.
WE ONLY OBEY THE ORDERS OF BA-RI AND THE WONHWA.
I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU.
Haa.
I WANTED TO SEE THIS FIGHT THROUGH THE END... BUT UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS BEEN POSTPONED.
BUT I TELL YOU WHAT...
...I WILL GRANT YOU ONE WISH.

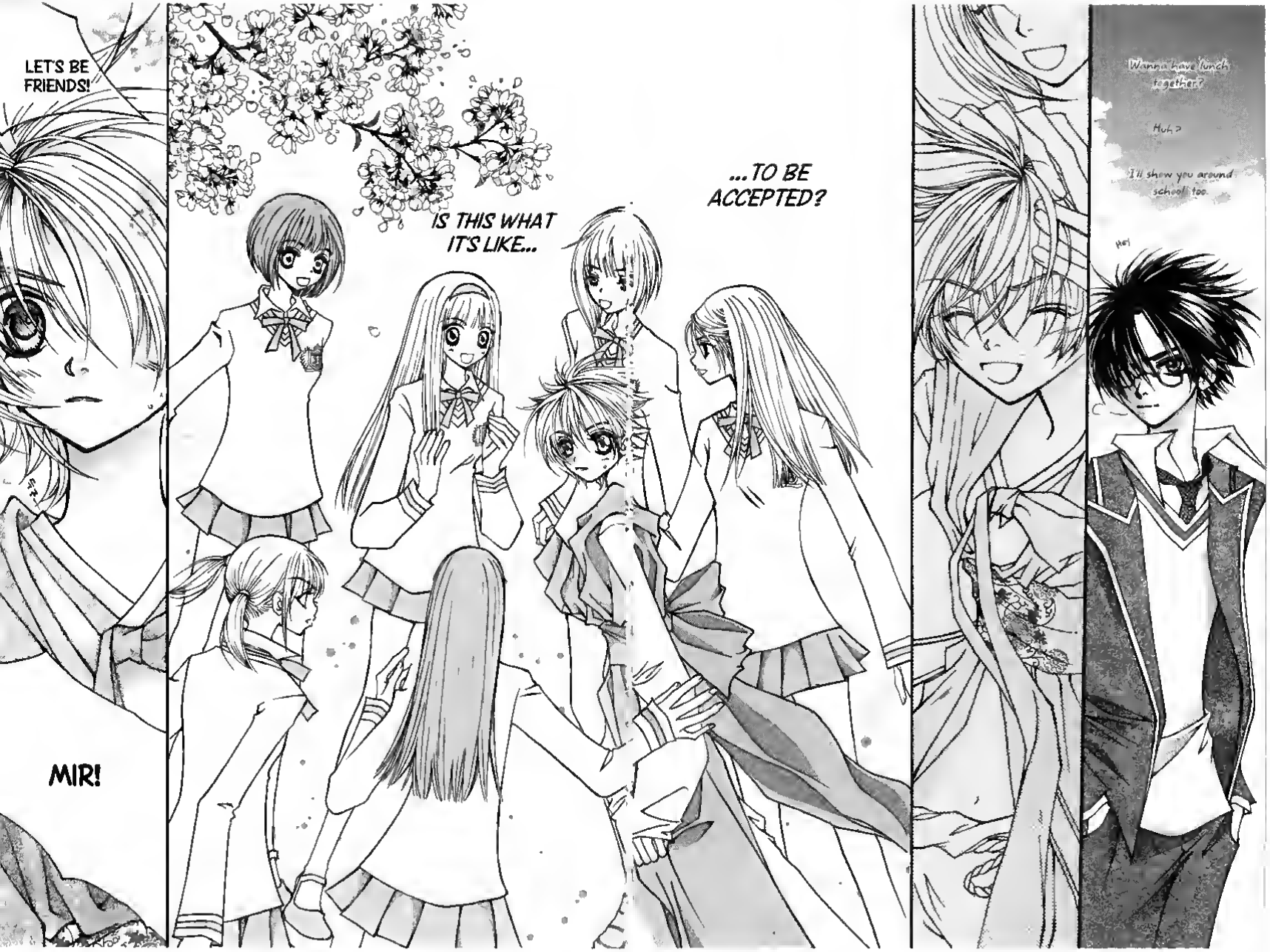
ALL RIGHT THEN.
...THE THING I WANT...
WHAT...
MY WISH...
ha ha
IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE THEN--
...IS FOR YOU TO BE MY FRIEND!

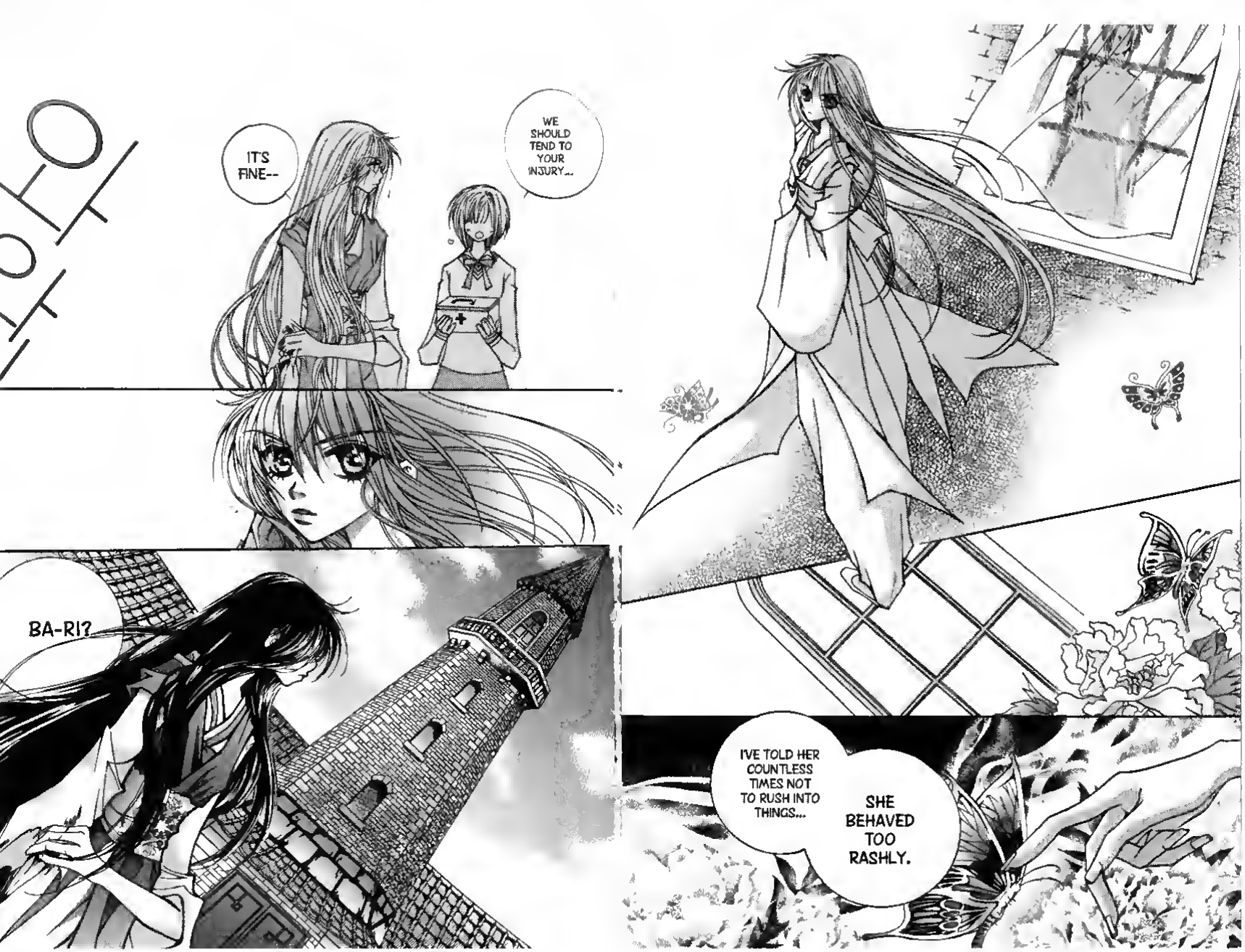
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID IT.
WHAT WAS THAT?!!
DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST ASK YOUR OPPONENT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU? THIS IS SOME KIND OF A JOKE, RIGHT?
I'M NOT JOKING. I'M SERIOUS.

I'VE NEVER HAD A FRIEND BEFORE.
SO I MADE A VOW TO MYSELF THAT ONCE I GOT TO THIS SCHOOL, I WOULD MAKE FRIENDS.
ALL I WANT IS TRUE FRIEND-SHIP.
OKAY... I WILL GRANT YOUR WISH.
I WILL BECOME YOUR FRIEND.
A VOW OF FRIENDSHIP!!
OF COURSE IT IS! IT WAS SEALED WITH A KISS ON THE CHEEK!
THIS CAN'T BE...! IS THIS A VOW THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME?
YOU...
THIS JUST IN! THE GREAT WONHWA HAS MADE A VOW OF FRIENDSHIP!
TO MAKE MATTERS STRANGER, SHE'S MADE IT WITH HER DUELING OPPONENT, THE MYSTERIOUS TRANSFER STUDENT!! WHAT A SCOOP!

I HOPE YOU DON'T REGRET THIS!
Didn't hear her because of the wind
HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, RIGHT?
SNAP
BEING A FRIEND OF THE WONHWAS MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.

조용
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT YOUR ARM WAS HURT, BUT WE WERE STILL ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR PRIDE...
THEREFORE, WE WONHWAS WILL NOT OBJECT TO YOUR DECISION.
MIR!!
어어
THAT WAS REALLY AMAZING! YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO EVER WIN AGAINST BA-RI.
WOW!


LET'S BE FRIENDS!
MIR!
IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE...
...TO BE ACCEPTED?
Wanna have lunch together?
Huh?
I'll show you around school too.


IT'S FINE--
WE SHOULD TEND TO YOUR INJURY...
BA-RI?
I'VE TOLD HER COUNTLESS TIMES NOT TO RUSH INTO THINGS...
SHE BEHAVED TOO RASHLY.

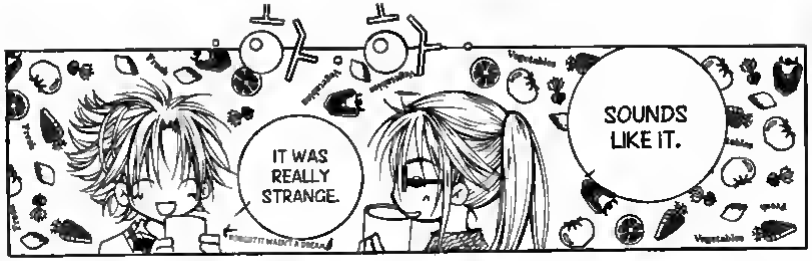
HMPH! A VOW OF FRIENDSHIP, HUH?
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT ACTUALLY MEANS?
DO YOU, BA-RI?
WHO?
WHO IS CALLING ME?
DID YOU KNOW, MIR?
WHEN A PERSON DIES...
... THEIR SPIRIT LEAVES THEIR BODY IN THE SHAPE OF A WHITE BIRD.

HURRY AND FIND ME,
BEFORE I TURN INTO A BIRD.
ME SO THAT I CAN HOLD IN MY ARMS...

LADY MIR--
!!!
WERE YOU DREAMING AGAIN?

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE EXHAUSTED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING RECENTLY, BUT YOU COLLAPSE AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME.
WHAT WAS THE DREAM ABOUT?

I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER.
THERE WAS A BIRD, A VERY BEAUTIFUL BOY WHO SMILED AT ME AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEONE CHALLENGED ME TO A DUEL... THEN I RODE A HORSE ...WON THE DUEL AND MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY TIRED.


IT WAS REALLY STRANGE.
SOUNDS LIKE IT.

BUT I WAS REALLY AWESOME IN MY DREAM.
WATER
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ

LADY MIR, WHAT WAS THAT?
WHO DARES TO HONK SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?!
SHE'S OPENING HER WINDOW.
B-BA-RI?!
I'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO. ♡

IT WASN'T JUST A DREAM?!
GOOD MORNING--!
Look! It's Ba-Ri.
HI
You look beautiful like always.
HELLO!!
WHAT?
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND, BUT...
Isn't this a bit much?

I HAVE TO DO THIS SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO ME.
"BELONG"? I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST GONNA BE FRIENDS?
It's the same thing
I'm not an object
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.
?
THIS IS TOTALLY UNFAIR!
HOW COME THAT NEWBIE'S A CANDIDATE FOR THE WONHWA?
I THOUGHT I WAS NEXT IN LINE?!
THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THERE'S ANOTHER OPENING.
I SEE. RATHER THAN GOING UP THE RANKS FORMALLY, IT'S A LOT QUICKER TO JUST FIGHT ONE OF THE WONHWAS AND HUMILIATE HER...
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST START CHALLENGING ALL OF YOU TO DUELS!
HOW DARE YOU!!
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO WAIT. IN A FEW MONTHS, THERE WILL BE A PARGWAN FESTIVAL. DURING THAT TIME, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A LEGITIMATE DUEL.
IF YOU WIN, YOU WILL OFFICIALLY BECOME ONE OF THE WONHWAS.

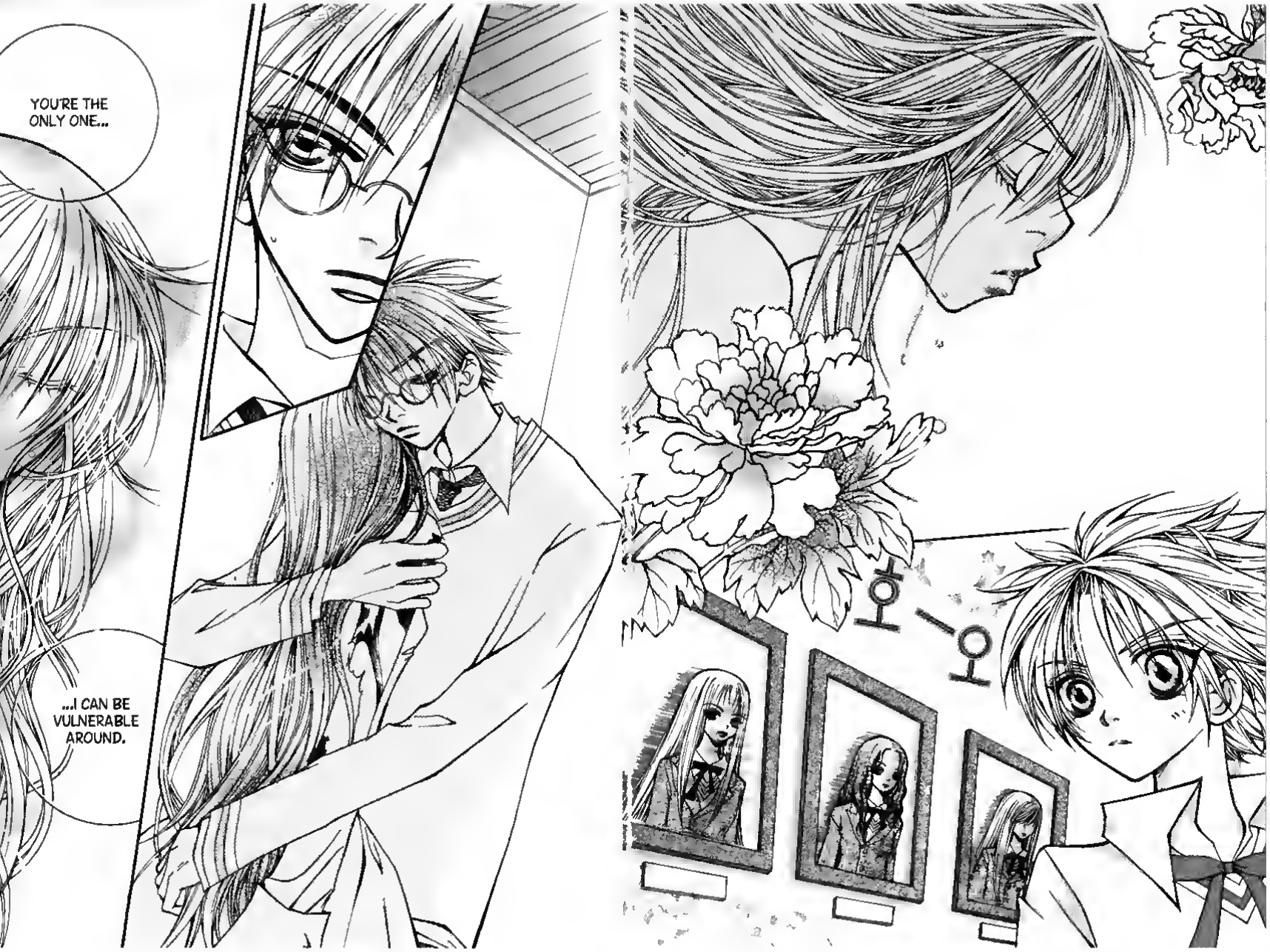
I MUST WARN YOU, THOUGH. IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS...
...THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE SUCCESSFUL WINNER AGAINST US WONHWAS.
SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS GLARING AT ME.
YOU'RE A BIT SLOW, AREN'T YOU?
SHE WAS GLARING AT YOU.
REALLY?! WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
BECAUSE NOW YOU'RE A WONHWA CANDIDATE. SO NATURALLY, SHE'S JEALOUS.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GONNA GET FUN AROUND HERE.
EVERYTHING'S SO STRANGE...
HWARANGS, WONHWAS, DUELS...
...AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT STRANGE TREE...! IS THIS REALLY JUST A NORMAL SCHOOL?!

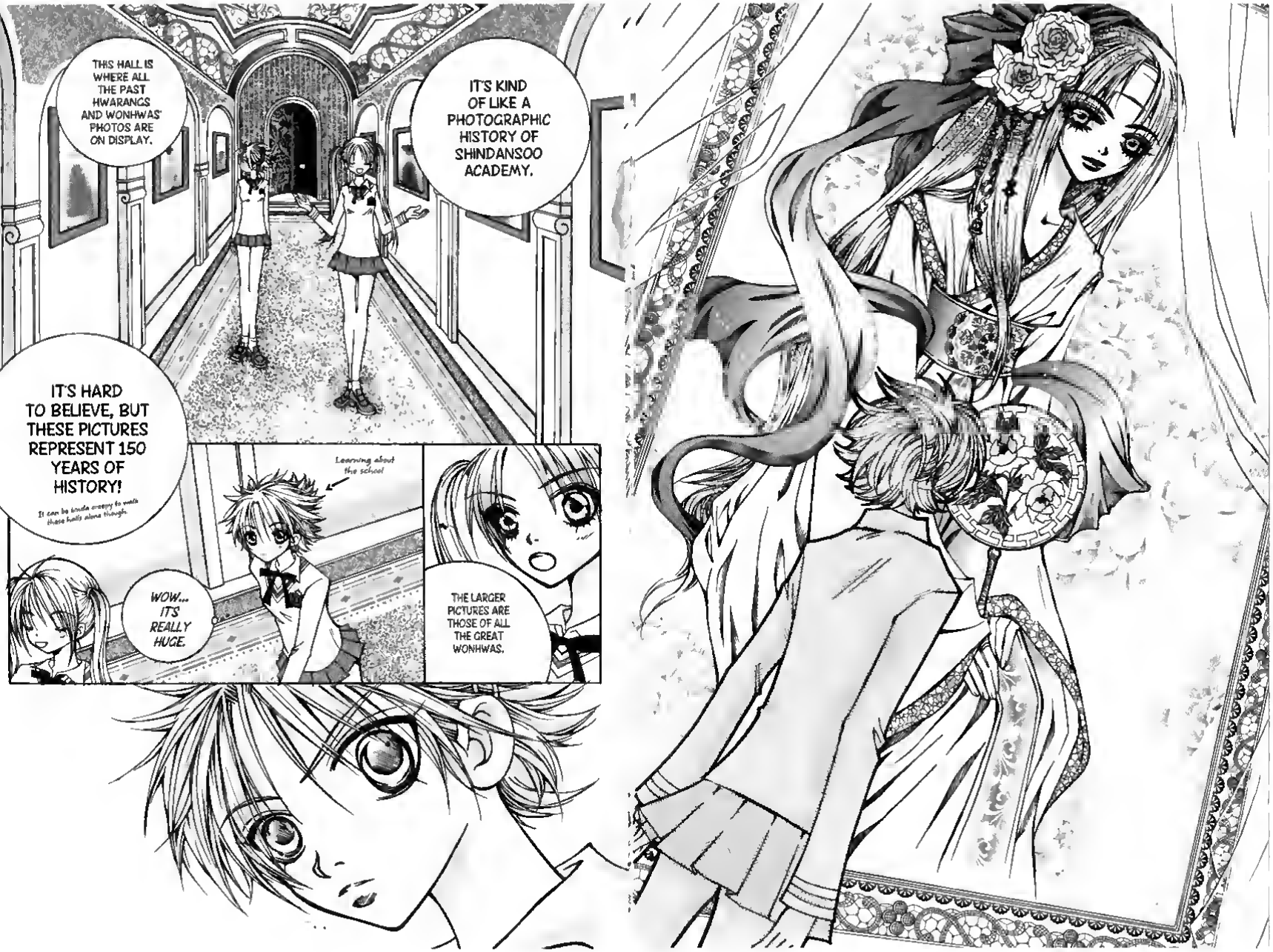
WHAT IS...
...THIS SHINDANSOO ACADEMY?!!
BA-RI! I'M COMING IN.
OH DEAR.

SORRY, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THE DIRECTOR HAS REQUESTED TO MEET WITH BA-RI BUT SHE'S NOT AROUND.
THE DIRECTOR?
DID YOU NEED ME?
I'M SURE YOU REALIZE WHY I'VE CALLED FOR YOU.
IS THIS ABOUT THE DUEL?
IF IT IS, THEN I SHOULD SAY THAT--

USELESS GIRL!
COME IN AND LOCK THE DOOR.
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO START SUCH A POINTLESS DUEL?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR YOUNGER SIBLING? AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, YOU'VE AGREED TO THE FORBIDDEN VOW OF FRIENDSHIP--!!
YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCE FOR DISOBEYING MY ORDERS, DON'T YOU?

THAT SMELL, IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO CLOUD ONE'S SENSES.
IS IT INCENSE?
I FEEL NAUSEOUS. I'VE SMELLED THIS ODOR SINCE I WAS YOUNG. BUT I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO IT.
BA-RI?!
OOD...
SOMEONE DELIBERATELY INJURED HER BAD ARM?


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
...I CAN BE VULNERABLE AROUND.
오~오


THIS HALL IS WHERE ALL THE PAST HWARANGS AND WONHWAS' PHOTOS ARE ON DISPLAY.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF SHINDANSOO ACADEMY.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT THESE PICTURES REPRESENT 150 YEARS OF HISTORY!
It can be kinda creepy to walk these halls alone though.
Learning about the school
WOW... IT'S REALLY HUGE.
THE LARGER PICTURES ARE THOSE OF ALL THE GREAT WONHWAS.

She's really pretty
WHO'S THAT...?
SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR.
THE 14TH GREAT WONHWA JOON-JUNG
...I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE.
(A LOT)
JOON-JUNG...
JOON-JUNG...
AHHK!
WHAT'S MY MOTHER'S PICTURE DOING HERE?
SHE WAS A GREAT WONHWA?!
MOTHER?!!
AND THIS PICTURE HERE...
...IS OF THE MOST FAMOUS HWARANGS IN THE HISTORY OF THIS SCHOOL. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? AREN'T THEY MAGNIFICENT?

MY... MY BROTHERS--?!!
MIR--?!!
THAT'S WHY MY MOTHER LET ME ATTEND THIS SCHOOL!
THIS WAS PART OF HER PLAN ALL ALONG!
THEY LIED TO ME!

WHAT HAPPENED? DID SHE FAINT?
...IT'S NOTHING.
Interesting
HA HA
WAIT--! WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOTHING"?
DON'T TOUCH HER.
AAAACK! BA-RI?! WHAT HAPPENED?
QUICKLY! BRING HER IN HERE.
HOLD ON. I'M COMING TOO.

BOYS AREN'T ALLOWED IN THERE! AND YET, THEY LET HIM GO IN!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? BE-HYUNG-RANG IS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE HEARD THAT... ALL MEN ARE PROHIBITED IN THE WONHWAS DOMAIN, BUT...
...BE-HYUNG-RANG, AS HER PARTNER...
Just right now
...did he glare at me?
BUT THEY'RE NOT A COUPLE! THE ATTRACTION IS ONE-SIDED.
I MEAN, IT WAS WRITTEN ALL OVER BE HYUNG-RANG'S FACE!
HE WAS ALL PALE AND...
...HE LOOKED LIKE HE'D BEEN TO HELL AND BACK.

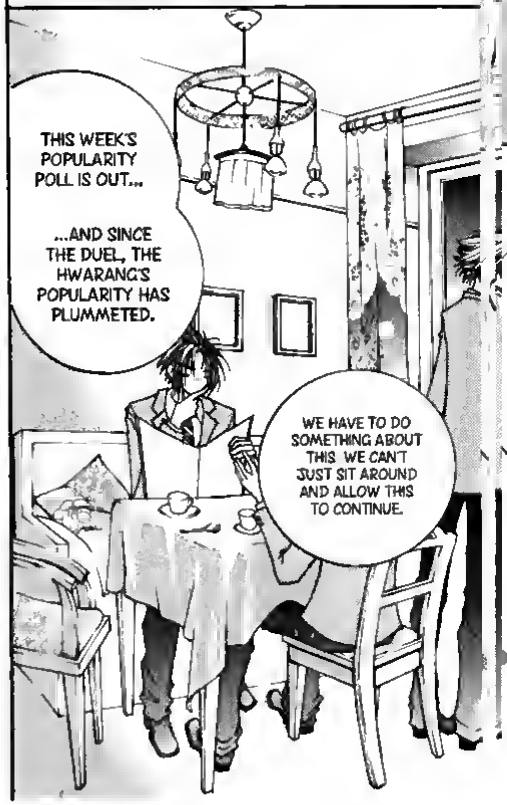
...
BE-HYUNG-RANG...!
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.

I DRESSED YOUR WOUNDS.
YOU DID, HONEY?
YOU SLY DOG. ♡
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
what are you thinking?
OH MY! I'M IN YOUR DEBT AGAIN!
HOW SHALL I EVER REPAY YOU?
How about with my body?
STOP JOKING AROUND AND TELL ME WHY YOU WERE IN THE DIRECTOR'S....
...!
TAKE IT OFF.
...

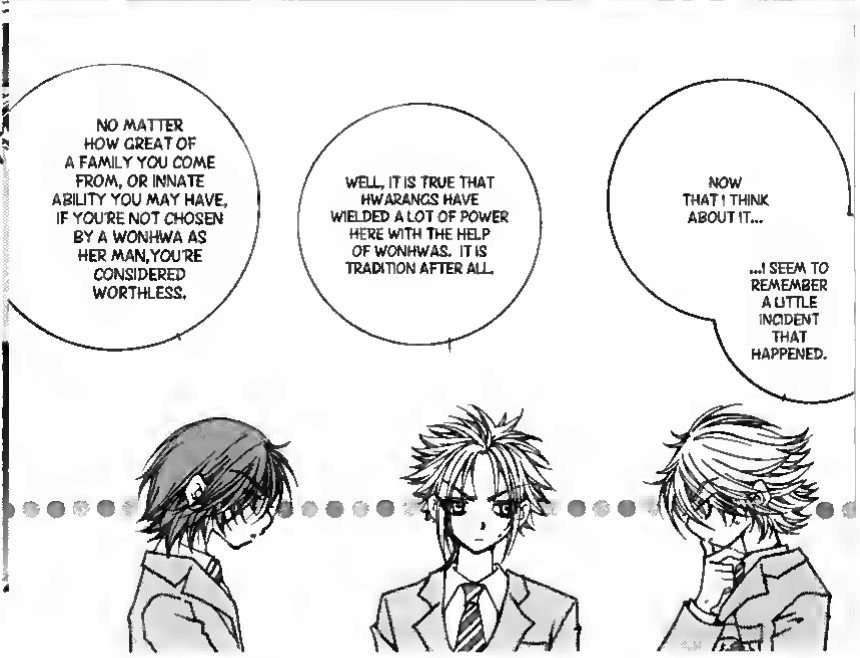
LOST HIS CLOTHES
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOINK!
They're a little big
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IDIOT! THIS IS A DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE SCHOOL RULES--!
YOU'LL BE VIOLATING THE SCHOOL DRESS CODE YOURSELF, IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND PUT SOMETHING ON.
PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO STARE.
SOMEWHERE FUN. ♡
Take care of things while I'm gone!

The Student Council President is in the Wonhwa office buck naked !?
Was watching the entire time
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DOING?

ARE YOU EAVESDROPPING, SA-DA-HAHM?
OH.


THIS WEEK'S POPULARITY POLL IS OUT...
...AND SINCE THE DUEL, THE HWARANG'S POPULARITY HAS PLUMMETED.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

US HWARANGS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE WONHWAS.
ONLY THE WONHWAS ARE LEGITIMATELY RECOGNIZED BY THE STUDENT BODY. THEY VIEW THE HWARANGS AS THEIR SIDEKICKS--
THUS WE MUST GAIN POPULARITY IN THESE POLLS.


NO MATTER HOW GREAT OF A FAMILY YOU COME FROM, OR INNATE ABILITY YOU MAY HAVE, IF YOU'RE NOT CHOSEN BY A WONHWA AS HER MAN, YOU'RE CONSIDERED WORTHLESS.
WELL, IT IS TRUE THAT HWARANGS HAVE WIELDED A LOT OF POWER HERE WITH THE HELP OF WONHWAS. IT IS TRADITION AFTER ALL.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...I SEEM TO REMEMBER A LITTLE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED.

PIMPS.
HOW COULD WE EVER FORGET...
THAT HELLISH DAY, THREE YEARS AGO...

Pimps
TRADITION, LINEAGE, NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
WHY DO YOU ASSUME THAT WE WONHWAS NEED THE HWARANGS TO PROTECT US?
WE DON'T NEED YOU HWARANGS. WE'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT OURSELVES.
FROM NOW ON, WE WONHWAS WILL BE THE SOLE DECISION-MAKERS OF THE STUDENT BODY.
INSOLENT GIRL...
HOW DARE SHE TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?! I AM THE GREAT SA-DA-HAHM...
I LIKE HER.
I WANT HER.
A glutton for punishment

I WANT TO TAME THIS BEAUTIFUL, NOBLE, WILD BEAST.
I WANT HER TO MELT AT MY TOUCH.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, I WILL MAKE HER MINE!
I'VE GOT AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

PART 3: BUTTERFLY
SOMEDAY, I'M GOING TO ESCAPE FROM THIS SMALL SHRINE AND... BE FREE.
THESE THOUGHTS RAN OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN MY MIND.
I WANTED TO BE FREE LIKE A BUTTERFLY.

BUT WHERE CAN I GO?

EXCUSE ME, MISS? ARE YOU ALONE?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A FRIEND?
Wowwee! Such a short skirt!
UM, ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE... HUNGRY?

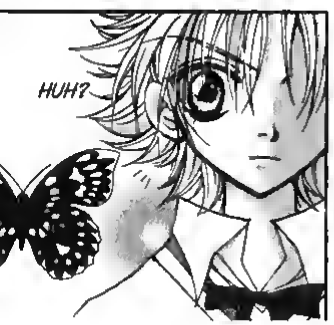
I'M HUNGRY!
AWESOME! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!
LOVELY
LOVELY
HOW ABOUT THIS? I'LL BUY YOU THE MOST EXPENSIVE STEAK!
AND YOU, RAMEN! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
Is that right?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
Why do I get ramen?
Only ramen?

HUH?
YOU... YOU AGAIN!
UM, KIDS...
I'LL BUY YOU BOTH STEAK AND RAMEN JUST PLEASE STOP FIGHTING...
WHAT PERFECT TIMING!! I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU! YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID!

YOU'RE TOO MUCH!!!
I STOPPED BY TO HELP YOU!
BLEAH!
GET USED TO IT. IT'S CALLED KARMA!
WHAM
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
Dammit
Laughing
I bit my tongue
STOP LAUGHING!
HA HA!
BUT IT IS STRANGE...
NOW THAT'S KARMA!
TODAY OF ALL DAYS...
...AND OF ALL PLACES...
...I RUN INTO YOU HERE.
IT'S JUST A FEELING BUT...
...I THINK YOU AND I ARE SOMEHOW CONNECTED.
WHAT?

WELL, SEE YOU AROUND, MIR.

YOU'RE NOT BY CHANCE WALKING THE STREETS BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO WHERE TO SLEEP, ARE YOU?
HA HA
GET THE QUICK OUTTA HERE!


HUH?

A BUTTERFLY...?

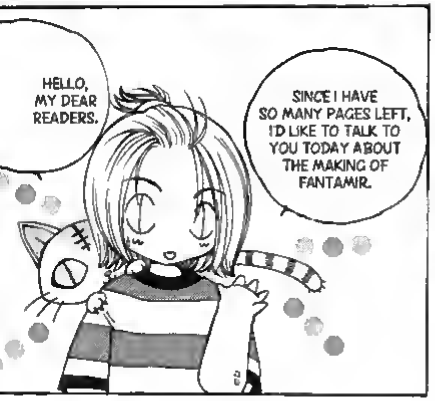
I NEED A FAVOR.

SHOW ME THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
MAYBE IT'S A SIGN.
I'M FREE TO GO ANYWHERE AS LONG AS IT'S WITH HIM.

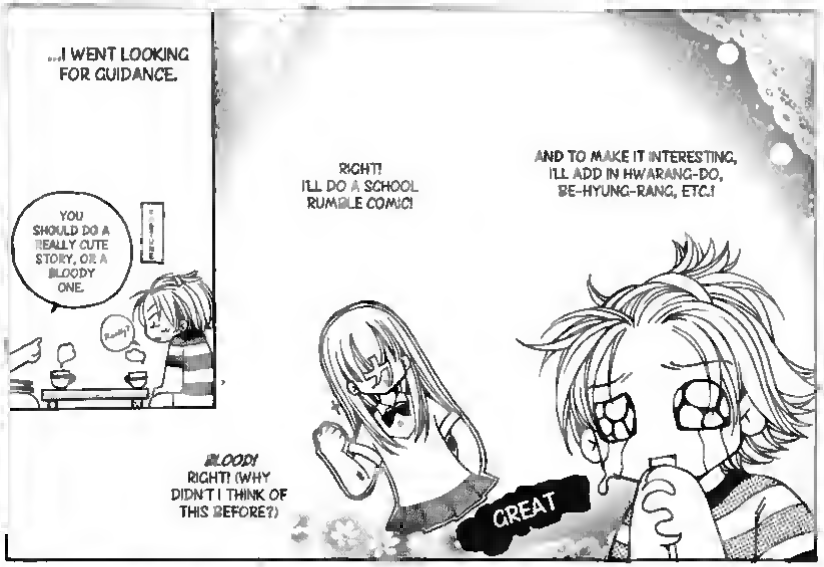
YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?!
NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M GOING TO QUIT!
WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU A DELINQUENT THEN.

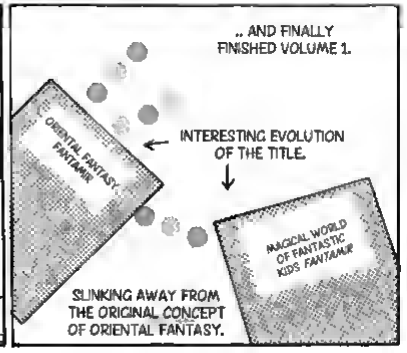
FINE BY ME. JUST DON'T REGRET IT LATER!
TO BE CONTINUED IN *FANTAMIR, VOLUME 2.*

MAKING OF FANTAMIR



AFTER *PEPPERMINT*, I WANTED TO CHUCK ALL CUTESY STORIES! SO...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
YOU DARE MAKE MY HEY CRY?
It was fun, but it wasn't your forte.
HAA


...I WENT LOOKING FOR GUIDANCE.
YOU SHOULD DO A REALLY CUTE STORY, OR A BLOODY ONE.
Really?
RIGHT! I'LL DO A SCHOOL RUMBLE COMIC!
AND TO MAKE IT INTERESTING, I'LL ADD IN HWARANG-DO, BE-HYUNG-RANG, ETC.!
BLOOD! RIGHT! (WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?)
GREAT


.. AND FINALLY FINISHED VOLUME 1.
ORIENTAL FANTASY FANTAMIR
INTERESTING EVOLUTION OF THE TITLE.
MAGICAL WORLD OF FANTASTIC KIDS FANTAMIR
SLINKING AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF ORIENTAL FANTASY.

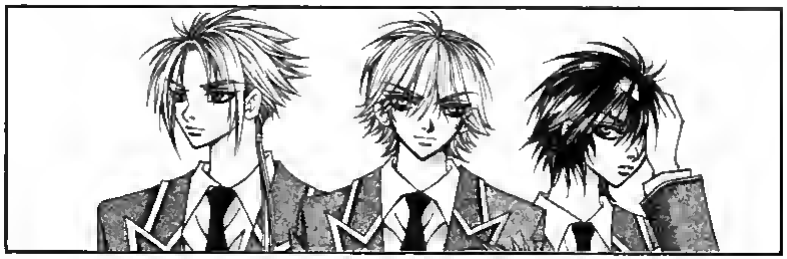
SPECIAL THANKS TO:
MY EDITORS WHO HAD HARD TIME NAMING THE CHARACTERS, MS. MI-JA ESPECIALLY. SHI-HYUN, THANKS FOR ENCOURAGING ME TO HAVE A PERVERT IN THE STORY, HYUN-JOON FOR WORKING WITHOUT PAY, SOOK-HEE, MY SUPER ASSISTANT, AND MY ROOMMATE JI-SOO.

WONHWA VS. HWARANG

WONHWA:

BY THE 6TH CENTURY, SHILLA HAD BEGUN TO STABILIZE AND BEGAN SERIES OF REFORMS TO CONCRETIZE ITS NEWFOUND STATUS AS A COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A SYSTEM IN WHICH NEW, YOUNG TALENTS CAN BE FOUND AND TRAINED WITH THE GOAL OF ULTIMATELY BECOMING LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY ONE DAY. THUS, SHILLA'S 24TH KING, JIN-HEUNG (534-576 AD) ADOPTED THE SYSTEM OF WONHWA KNOWN AS WONHWA-JEDO. THERE IS SOME DISPUTE AS TO WHETHER THIS WAS AN EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION OF MALES LIKE THE HWARANG. BUT AS ITS LEADERS WERE TWO WOMEN, MOST SEE IT LIKELY THAT FEMALE PARTICIPATION WAS NOT FORBIDDEN IN WONHWA. THE TWO WOMEN SELECTED TO LEAD THE WONHWA WERE NAM-MO AND JOON-JUNG, AND THE KING HANDPICKED THEM FOR THEY EXCELLED IN KNOWLEDGE, MARITAL ARTS, BEAUTY AND GRACE. THE TWO WOMEN CO-EXISTED PEACEFULLY, SHARING THEIR POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER THEIR GROWING NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS UNTIL JOON-JUNG GREW JEALOUS OF NAM-MO'S INCREASING POPULARITY OVER HER OWN. JOON-JUNG SECRETLY INVITED NAM-MO OVER TO HER HOUSE ONE NIGHT AND WHEN NAM-MO STARTED OUT TO RETURN TO HER HOME, JOON-JUNG PUSHED HER OFF A CLIFF. KING JIN-HEUNG WAS GREATLY ANGERED AND EXECUTED JOON-JUNG. DISSOLVED THE WONHWA-JEDO AND REPLACED IT WITH THE HWARANG-JEDO.

AFTER THE DEMISE OF ANCIENT CHOSON, THE KOREAN PENINSULA WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE WARRING STATES: SHILLA, KOGURYO, AND BAEKJAE.



HWARANG:

KING JIN-HEUNG'S EVERLASTING LEGACY LIES IN HIS IMPLEMENTING THE HWARANG-JEDO IN 576. AFTER THE NAM-MO/JOON-JUNG FIASCO, THE KING DECIDED THAT THE NEW SYSTEM AND INSTITUTION WOULD BE OPEN ONLY TO MALES. UNLIKE THE WONHWA, HWARANG WAS A COLLECTIVE OF CAREFULLY SELECTED YOUNG MEN. TO BE NOMINATED AS A CANDIDATE A YOUNG MAN HAD TO BE OF NOBLE BLOOD, WITH HIS FAMILY IN GOOD SOCIAL STANDING, AND DISPLAY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL PROWESS. TO BE INDUCTED AS A HWARANG, HE HAD TO BE RECOMMENDED BY ONE OF THE HWARANG INSTRUCTORS AND POSSESS PHYSICAL BEAUTY.

A HWARANG'S DEFINING QUALITY WAS CONSIDERED TO BE PATRIOTISM, AS HE WAS EXPECTED TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HIS COUNTRY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HWARANGS CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON MARTIAL ARTS (NOW CALLED TAEKWONDO/HWARANGDO) AND MANY YOUNG HWARANGS INDEED GREW UP TO BE FAMOUS GENERALS WHOSE FEATS ARE LEGENDARY IN KOREAN HISTORY. AND ALTHOUGH HWARANGS WERE EXPECTED TO BECOME GREAT WARRIORS, THEY WERE ALSO TRAINED TO BE EXCELLENT POETS, SINGERS AND DANCERS.

THE HWARANG-JEDO LASTED ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS, DURING WHICH BOTH KORYO (DESCENDENTS OF KOGURYO, WHO WOULD LATER ULTIMATELY UNIFY THE PENINSULA AS KOREA) AND JAPAN BORROWED AND ADOPTED THEIR OWN GOOKSUN AND BUSHIDO SYSTEM, RESPECTIVELY.

FANTAMIR

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

FANTAMIR

MIR'S ESCAPE FROM SHINDANSOO ACADEMY MAY HAVE GONE UNNOTICED, BUT THANKS TO HAE-RANG, ALL WITNESS HER RETURN AS HE LEAVES HER PASSED OUT IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATE BLANKETED BY COUPLE OF CRUMPLED RAMEN BOXES. FUMING MAD, MIR SEARCHES EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE CAMPUS AND FINALLY STEPS INTO BA-RI'S ROOM. THERE, SHE FINDS HER JAW DROPPING TO THE FLOOR AS SHE SEES NOT BA-RI, BUT A HALF-NAKED GUY DRIPPING WITH WATER...

Manga
Fantasy
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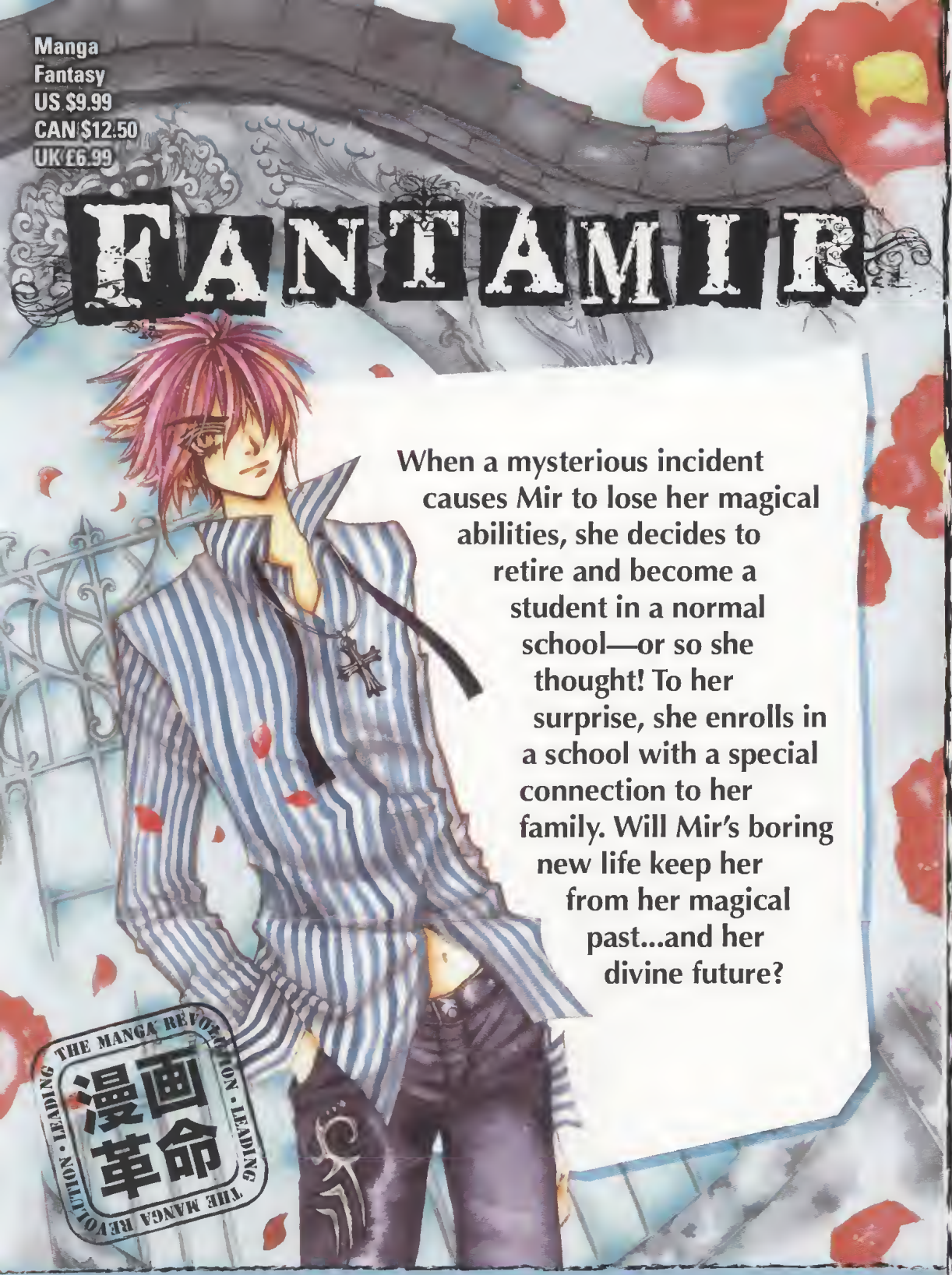
FANTAMIR



When a mysterious incident causes Mir to lose her magical abilities, she decides to retire and become a student in a normal school—or so she thought! To her surprise, she enrolls in a school with a special connection to her family. Will Mir's boring new life keep her from her magical past...and her divine future?

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